

Government to stay out of Ford dispute

£17m daily production of cars to be lost

By Richard Ford, Roland Rudd and Bailey Morris

The Government last night distanced itself from the most serious industrial dispute in Britain since the miners' walkout by adopting a non-intervention policy towards the strike by 32,500 Ford car workers, which began at midnight.

Ministers insisted that they would sit out the strike despite the potential damage it could cause to their economic policies, future investment prospects and Britain's image and reputation abroad.

While the Government sees the latest upsurge in industrial action in the public and the private sector as damaging to hard-won improvements in Britain's strike record, it says it is little more than a spasm which should not be compared to the winter of discontent a decade ago.

Ministers admit, however, that improvements in the economy, the profitability of many companies and recent reports about prospects for a tax-cutting Budget next month have encouraged an inevitable human reaction from workers to seek larger pay increases.



Effects of dispute.....2
Photograph.....2

There is always the risk that having got into a recovery situation, people will relax. We cannot, a minister said.

Even though they expect to gain politically from strikes and particularly if the Ford dispute is lengthy, ministers are worried that pay settlements are unrealistically excessive and that this will damage Britain's competitiveness and long-term prospects for full economic and industrial recovery.

Another minister said that while the strike would be extremely damaging to Ford and the component companies, it was absurd to expect the Government to intervene. Ministers are confident that the changes in trades union law since 1979 will prevent or limit the spread of sympathetic industrial actions elsewhere.

"This is an issue for Ford. It is up to them and we are not going to intervene in the matter. They are in the best position to judge what they want from any deal with the unions. We will leave the handling of it entirely to them," a Government source said.

Ford conceded last night that it had failed to carry its workers along with the need to continually improve competitiveness. A spokesman said: "We were able to convince the union leaders but not the guys on the shopfloor nor the shop stewards."

The company will lose car production valued at £17 million a day and the shutdown will hit the components industry in the Midlands within a matter of days.

Layoffs are also expected at Ford plant in Genk, Belgium, where 2,500 out of 11,000 employees will be unemployed by the middle of the week and production of the 274 Ford Transit vans will halt by Thursday.

Ford is bracing itself for a long and bitter dispute after the rejection of a union-recommended pay and working practices package by more than 60 per cent of the workforce.

The company has withdrawn its offer of 7 per cent rises, backdated to November, with further increases of 2.5 per cent higher than inflation in 1988 and 1989. While it will open gates at its 22 plants, the company expects few workers to turn up.

Mr John Davies, secretary of the national shopfloor conveners, said the mood on the shopfloor was one of bitterness and disappointment that the company had not been prepared to amend its final pay offer at the last moment.

"No one wants a strike but the company's refusal to amend their final offer means that we are now bracing ourselves for a major stoppage."

Union negotiators believe that the far-reaching changes in working practices, which would abolish the dividing line between skilled and semi-skilled workers, and the three-year pay agreement instead of the normal two-year pay deal are the main reasons why their members will be on strike.

Ford executives at the company's headquarters in Detroit insisted that all decisions concerning negotiations, the length of strike, and the ultimate settlement would be taken in Europe.

"I would be very surprised if they took an adversarial line in the UK negotiations", a company official said.

He said that even though its cash position was strong, Ford will not want to lose its market share which would be an even more costly development.

The European market is more competitive than the US market with many more companies fighting for the same customer base.

Hart fights to finish in Iowa



Mr Gary Hart, whose campaign to become US President seems to be over, campaigning with a smile for tonight's Iowa caucus in time-honoured fashion by holding a child.

Dole and Gephardt lead polls

From Michael Binyon, Des Moines, Iowa

If the final opinion poll is correct, Senator Robert Dole and Representative Richard Gephardt will be the Republican and Democratic winners of this evening's crucial Iowa presidential caucuses.

But both had to fend off determined opposition during hectic weekend campaigning. Mr Gephardt now has the support of 25 per cent of the Democrats likely to attend the 2,487 caucus meetings. However, Senator Paul Simon of Illinois, who is in second place with 19 per cent, appears to have picked up momentum with some aggressive television advertising, and has the support of the most strongly committed voters. Governor Michael Dukakis of Massachusetts has slipped back to third, with 15 per cent.

The opinion poll, by the influential *Des Moines Register*, showed 15 per cent of Democrats undecided. Much also depends on the weather.

Continued on page 20, col 7

Israeli troops kill three more

From David Bernstein, Jerusalem

Three Palestinians were killed by Israeli troops yesterday in one of the worst days of violence since the current wave of unrest began in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip almost two months ago. Dozens more were reported injured as troops clashed with demonstrators at several locations on the West Bank.

Yesterday's deaths bring to 49 the number of Palestinians killed since December 9. These follow the deaths of two other Palestinians on Saturday — a 17-year-old girl killed in a clash on Saturday with Israeli troops in al-Aroub, near Ramallah, and an 11-year-old boy who died in hospital from injuries sustained on February 2.

The Defence Minister, Mr Yitzhak Rabin, the Police Minister, Mr Chaim Bar-Lev, and the Army Chief of Staff, Lieutenant-General Dan Shomron, briefed the Government yesterday on the latest deterioration in the West Bank. According to Israel Radio, their report was extremely bleak, and for the first time since the current unrest broke out nothing was said about prospects of an early return to normal.

The most serious incident was yesterday's clash between demonstrators and troops at Beit Umar, on the main road between Hebron and Jerusalem. Residents of the village attempted to block the highway, egged on by calls of encouragement from the local mosque. Israeli troops drove them back, using tear gas, rubber bullets and also live ammunition.

Three demonstrators were killed, apparently by Israeli bullets, and about 25 were injured, five of them seriously. According to the Palestinians, live ammunition was used by troops at Beit Umar and at several other places in the West Bank yesterday — including Halhoul, near Hebron, Jenin, and Kalkiya.

Many areas of the West Bank remained under curfew yesterday, including Anata refugee camp on the outskirts of Jerusalem, the scene of a violent disturbance on Saturday night.

'Near miss' staff suspended

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

Two air traffic controllers working at West Drayton have been suspended from duty pending a full-scale investigation into how two passenger aircraft nearly collided over Kent at the weekend.

The controllers apparently failed to spot a Bulgarian Balkan Airlines TU-154 cross the path of a British Airways Trident. Both aircraft were at 18,000 ft and, it is believed, came within 600 yards of each other.

The Balkan Airlines jet, with more than 200 people on board, had been held in a stack over Lydd in Kent because the Gatwick runway was temporarily closed. The pilot was instructed to descend towards 11,000 ft and begin his approach to Gatwick but as he did so flashed across the path of the British Airways Trident BA 303, with 327 passengers on board, bound for Heathrow from Paris.

Captain C. Richardson on board the Trident immediately pulled the nose of his aircraft up and to the right to avoid the Balkan jet and then told his startled passengers that they had been involved in "a very close shave".

Air traffic controllers at West Drayton were horrified when another crew pointed out what was happening. The two most directly involved were suspended from radar duty but will begin normal shifts again this week provided they carry out only administrative duties.

Meanwhile investigators from the Civil Aviation Authority are studying tape recordings of the conversations between the controllers and the two pilots and also radar recordings. It is common practice for controllers involved in such incidents to be suspended, largely for their own protection.

The incident was regarded as one of the worst which has been reported in British airspace for some time and heightens fears that the air traffic control system around London is becoming dangerously stretched at peak times. It will also give ammunition to proposals being made by the American Federal Aviation Administration for aircraft to be fitted with a special anti-collision warning device in the cockpit.

The CAA is resisting the proposal because it believes it is one step towards allowing pilots rather than ground controllers to guide aircraft through the complex network of airways and because it could inadvertently tell pilots to change course and put them into even greater danger.

A redesigned Improved Boot Combat High was developed and tested. This is the version which the soldiers will use for everyday barracks wear. The new Mark II, with a composite sole, high-quality leather and stitching and padding, will be distributed when the stocks of old boots run out. The senior officer commented: "I don't think we could have produced a better boot. This is the best we could do."

Worried Bank threatens rise in interest rate

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

The Bank of England will this week issue a stern warning on pay and the dangers of inflationary pressures in the economy, amid clear signs that the authorities are prepared to use the interest rate weapon again to cool the economy.

Official concern over pay and inflation may lead to further increases in base rates, even if this means allowing sterling to rise above its unofficial DM3 ceiling.

The Bank's warning on pay, in its *Quarterly Bulletin* to be published on Thursday evening, will come at a time of growing concern in the City about overheating in the economy.

The majority view among City economists is that base rates will have to rise further from the present 9 per cent, and that it will be difficult for the Chancellor to justify the traditional Budget-week base rate cut.

Shearson Lehman Securities, in a forecast which pushed the stock market sharply lower on Friday, says: "In belated recognition of the bloated condition of the economy, UK interest rates are set to rise sharply. The timing and extent of the hike will depend on the resilience of sterling to mounting concern over the balance of payments deficit, pay disputes and bank lending growth."

Shearson, which is at the extreme end of City expectations on the dangers facing the economy, expects base rates at 12 per cent by the summer.

Warburg Securities, Barclays De Zoete Wedd and Smith New Court also predict higher rates in the coming weeks.

The belief is that the Bank of England, having persuaded the Chancellor to push up rates to 10 per cent last August, and run them down to 8.5 per cent after the stock market crash, wants rates back up to 10 per cent now that the crash is seen to have had little impact on inflationary pressures.

Economists at the Bank of England, using their own computer model of the economy, see little sign of a slowdown in consumer demand this year. The Bank of England has traditionally been more pessimistic on inflation and the balance of payments than the Treasury.

The City has taken the view that base rates will be raised again only if sterling shows signs of weakness. But, with the dollar becoming stronger, the Bank and Treasury would probably let sterling rise above DM3 to restrain inflation.

In the short term, the Bank will allow the markets to digest last week's rise in base rates from 8.5 to 9 per cent. Friday's rise in money market rates to significantly above 9 per cent underlined the nervous mood in the City.

For much of last month, money market rates were discounting a half-point rise in base rates. It was significant that the Bank only acted to raise rates when money market rates had come down.

Although the timing of the Bank's move was related to worries over developments in the labour market and a weakening of sterling against the mark, it also showed action was needed only when the money markets had stopped signalling a tightening of policy.

Baker's reform of maths in disarray

By John Clare, Education Correspondent

The Government's plans for raising the standards of mathematics teaching in schools were thrown into disarray yesterday by the resignation of Professor Sigbert Prais, its most prominent supporter on the national curriculum working group.

Professor Prais said he had concluded that his continued membership would be a waste of time. At least two others are also said to be considering resignation.

The 14 members of the group were appointed last July by Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science. Their task was to redefine how mathematics should be taught in the light of growing evidence that British schoolchildren of average and below average ability were

falling behind their counterparts in West Germany and Japan.

Professor Prais complained yesterday that the group had been "hijacked" by the education establishment of teachers, university lecturers, local authority inspectors and advisers. He said most had no knowledge of the business world.

He said they were refusing to grasp the nettle of specifying what pupils of different ages should know.

Mr Baker's aim of making every child competent in basic maths after 11 years of schooling is now in danger, Professor Prais said. "Unless the Government acts quickly our national curriculum will merely repeat old mistakes."

Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator

● Portfolio Accumulator starts its second week with £44,000 in the kitty, since there was no winner on Saturday, and of course there is today's £4,000 daily prize to be won as well.

CRUFTS

● Tomorrow: A four-page supplement to mark the opening of Crufts Dog Show, including a wall chart in colour featuring most of the breeds.

CALGARY

● Wednesday: Get ready for the Winter Olympics with a colour supplement featuring the key contenders and a complete guide to television coverage.

IN PART 2

Store cuts

Woolworth is planning cuts in its high street stores as part of a five-year programme to reduce overheads and expand into new business. Page 21

Arsenal win

Arsenal took a step on the way to Wembley when they beat Everton 1-0 away in the first leg of the semi-final of the Littlewoods Cup. Page 36

Hard going

Tim Robinson scored 74 as the England XI struggled on the first day of the rain-affected match against a Shell Invitation XI in New Plymouth, New Zealand. Page 36

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Seamen split on 'back to work' call by union

By Roland Rudd

The National Union of Seamen (NUS) last night remained split over the call from its general secretary, Mr Sam McCluskie, for a national return to work as the union prepared to go back to the High Court to argue against sequestration of its assets.

At Dover, Sealink workers voted to end their stoppage while 3,000 P & O crew members decided to continue to work, although the NUS insisted that action was over a local dispute.

Folkestone was returning to normal but Holyhead was still

affected and three other ports were at a standstill.

Shipowners will today put pressure on Mr McCluskie to get all his members back to work or face renewed court action.

In an example of the increasingly hard-line management is adopting, Belfast Freight Ferries yesterday said it had dismissed the crews of its two ships as its members were meeting in Belfast to consider a return to work.

Sealink ferry workers at

Continued on page 20, col 6

Army to march in style with Rolls-Royce boot

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

A new army boot which will add millions of pounds to the hard-pressed Ministry of Defence equipment budget was described yesterday as the "Rolls-Royce" of footwear. According to sources, it is guaranteed to resolve the longest-running cause for complaint by the squaddie in the history of the British Army.

The new superboot has been included in the ministry's current long-term estimates, but the extra £4 million that will have to be found next year from the defence budget has still to be approved.

The new boot will be double the price and will come with a special sock guaranteed to keep out the wet. One

senior army officer closely associated with the boots' saga described the latest model as "at the top end of technology", made with advanced supple leather which has benefited from a new tanning process. "It's a Rolls-Royce boot," he said.

The new boot is currently being tested by a handful of lucky soldiers around the country and in West Germany. "They all say they're miraculous," said the officer.

But for every £1 increase in the cost of the boot, an extra £250,000 is added to the Army's clothing vote. The new Mark II boot, with its "moisture vapour permeable" sock (allowing the foot to breathe), will cost £30 a pair (at least £100 on the open market), compared to the present £15 a pair.

Every soldier is supposed to have two pairs of boots but because of the cost problems, a compromise has been agreed. The new boots will be kept strictly for combat duties. For marching around the barracks, the soldiers will wear the existing "Boot Combat High".

Soldiers' complaints about boots have been a tradition. The old "ammunition boot" with leather sole and studs was replaced by a more flexible model with a "durable moulded sole" to provide better waterproofing. But this was cumbersome and unpopular. So in the early 1980s the Ministry of Defence's Stores and Clothing Research and Development Establishment came up with the Boot Combat High, an all-in-one

version, giving proper support to the ankle.

However, trials were cut short when the Falklands War broke out in 1982. The new boots were rushed down to the South Atlantic and within weeks there were more complaints. The soles came away and mechanics discovered that the boots were not petrol-resistant.

A redesigned Improved Boot Combat High was developed and tested. This is the version which the soldiers will use for everyday barracks wear. The new Mark II, with a composite sole, high-quality leather and stitching and padding, will be distributed when the stocks of old boots run out. The senior officer commented: "I don't think we could have produced a better boot. This is the best we could do."

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NEWS ROUNDUP

Close vote likely on Commons TV

A close vote is expected tomorrow night when MPs vote on proposals to televise the proceedings of the Commons at a time of growing complaints that the chamber is becoming increasingly unruly.

Opposition is led by the Prime Minister. The last vote was lost two years ago by 275 to 263.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher and some senior colleagues fear that Parliament's reputation will be seriously damaged if some of the behaviour of this session was on camera. They fear that television would encourage rabble rousers and publicity seekers leading inevitably to sensationalized debates and to more suspensions and challenges to the authority of the Speaker.

The BBC and ITN have demonstrated the latest equipment in the Palace of Westminster and have given assurances that transmissions will be dealt with responsibly.

Check on share boy

A Derbyshire schoolboy who lost an estimated £20,000 in the stock market collapse last year is expected to be interviewed again by detectives.

He was first questioned after it was revealed that he had placed telephone orders for shares during his school lunch break. Stockbrokers said he passed himself off as a businessman.

Derbyshire police then sent a report to the Crown Prosecution Service. It is understood that a number of adults will also be interviewed.

Solicitors' pay claim

Crown prosecutors will be asked by their union officials to endorse a large pay claim, including a 50 per cent increase for Saturday court sittings, at their annual meeting tomorrow.

The prosecutors' union, the First Division Association, has put forward a series of pay and career proposals in an effort to attract more lawyers into the work. Miss Robyn Dacey, assistant general secretary, said: "There is still a shortage of lawyers in the Crown Prosecution Service; about a third of the posts are unfilled."

Sentences Doctors' a 'lottery' NHS plan

Probation officers call today for reform of prison sentencing because of widespread discrepancies in different magistrates' courts.

A briefing paper by their association shows that the use of custody varied in 1986 between 8 and 39 per cent for adult males, 4 and 16 per cent for adult females and 4 and 22 per cent for males between 17 and 21.

Mr Harry Fletcher, assistant general secretary of National Association of Prison Officers, said yesterday that the system was a "geographical lottery".

Nets kill 2,000 birds

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds warned last night that there could be angry confrontations with fishermen off St Ives, Cornwall today unless they stop using "invisible" gill nets in which 2,000 sea birds have been trapped and killed in the past five weeks.

Mr John Waldon, South West conservation officer for the society, said: "Some fishermen may use these treacherous nets again despite the scandal of 538 birds dead in the space of one-and-a-half hours."

"If they do, and there are further deaths of these diving birds, we shall have no alternative but to go out in boats and confront them."

Speelman to play Short in qualifier

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

The play-off to decide the last two qualifiers for the quarter-final of the world chess championship resulted in two upsets.

Johann Hjartarson, the relatively inexperienced Icelandic, caught out his opponent Viktor Korchnoi in the complex middle game in the second game of their play-off. Korchnoi deliberately sought complications but committed a terrible oversight which suddenly lost him material. Hjartarson won by 4½ points to 3½.

In the second play-off, which had gone into extra time, two times Commonwealth champion Kevin Spraggett from Canada defeated his heavily-fancied opponent Andrei Sokolov (USSR) who was placed third in the previous world championship cycle.

After a lengthy sequence of drawn games the match went

into sudden-death play-offs. Spraggett finally won when Sokolov overlooked a knight fork to his king and queen. Spraggett won by 6½ points to 5½.

The line-up for the quarter-finals is: Anatoly Karpov (USSR) against Spraggett; Nigel Short (England) against Jon Speelman (England); Artur Yusupov (USSR) against Hjartarson; Jan Timman (The Netherlands) against Lajos Portisch (Hungary).

The pairings are based on seedings according to the strength of the players. It is unfortunate that the two Englishmen must apparently play each other, but this pairing will at least guarantee the qualification of a British player to the world championship semi-finals, a first for British chess. It is also worth noting that England and the USSR are the only countries with two players through to the quarter-final stage.

Lack of funds 'threatens development of cures'

By Sheila Gunn
Political Correspondent

The Government will be told next month that research in Britain into finding cures for many of the most prevalent diseases has fallen to a dangerously low level.

The decline has accelerated at a time when senior scientists believe they are on the verge of significant breakthroughs in tackling ailments, such as heart disease, arthritis and psychiatric disorders.

A House of Lords report is also expected to issue a warning that the struggle for funds, together with an ossified career structure, is leading to the best medical brains opting out of research or going abroad.

The most recent example has been the resignation because of health service cuts of Dr Alfred Cuschieri, a world-renowned

professor of surgery at Birmingham University.

The report will be a further blow to the Government, already faced with a clamour to release more funds to the health service. It is the result of a year's investigation into the state of medical research by an influential Lords' science and technology committee.

The draft report, to be agreed by the peers on Thursday and published in March, is understood to call for an urgent review of research funds as part of the Government's scrutiny of health service spending. It is also likely to demand a new career structure for researchers and an attack on bureaucracy.

A total of 220 bodies including universities, charities, industry, government departments and the medical profession gave evidence.

They consistently followed the lead given by Sir David Weatherall,

professor of clinical medicine at Oxford, who painted a picture of decline and despair.

"It is a great shame that we are facing this crisis at a time when the basic sciences are offering us the possibility of making the next 50 years the most exciting and productive for medical research. We must not miss this opportunity," Sir David concluded.

He listed examples of recent research which had brought benefits to patients:

- Prevention of rhesus haemolytic disease of the new-born.
- Detection of genetic disease.
- Development of penicillins and a new generation of antibiotics.
- Better treatment of childhood leukaemia.
- New drugs for healing ulcers of the stomach and duodenum.
- Development of artificial hip joints.

● Tissue-typing for transplants.

● New vaccines for infectious diseases.

● Powerful new diagnostic agents.

The peers are understood to agree with many of the conclusions of Sir David, backed up by other witnesses, whose evidence they have praised.

Sir David said: "British academic medicine is currently facing particularly serious problems and seems to have lost direction. There are many reasons. It has been hit hard by cuts in health service funding, with deterioration in the quality of teaching hospitals."

He said too many bodies were involved in the training of medical researchers. "The training of medical students and post-graduates is reaching a stage of organizational chaos. This is having the effect of stifling a great deal of our best talent."

Medical researchers also criticized the Department of Health and Social Security for its faceless bureaucracy. Sir David gave evidence to the peers immediately after attending a meeting at the World Society of Genetics. "I asked a number of my colleagues who runs the genetics services in their DHSS, and none of them knew."

● The latest advances in research into cystic fibrosis will be outlined at a conference in Scarborough from February 12 to 14 (Thomson Press writes).

The conference, organized by the Cystic Fibrosis Research Trust, is expected to draw almost 300 delegates.

The condition is the commonest genetically inherited disease, with 5 per cent of the British population symptomless carriers of the defective gene which causes it.

Wage link to productivity is blamed for inflation rise

By Roland Radd

The Government was facing a problem on the pay front before the present upsurge in industrial unrest, according to a report published yesterday.

Incomes Data Services, an independent pay research group, believes the Government's explanation of an 8.25 per cent rise in average earnings to November 1987 is inadequate and misleading.

The Department of Employment attributed the rise to the high settlement for local authority manual workers, and overtime worked by those clearing up the storm damage in October.

"Blaming home helps and weather will not do," the report says. The group believes there is a complex set of factors which has contributed to the underlining trend, the stronger economic growth of 1987 being a prime factor.

Mr Roger Boodie, economic adviser to Lloyds Merchant Bank, said yesterday: "It appears we are back with the old British problem. Economic growth leads to large pay settlements which pushes up inflation."

As output has risen, earnings in manufacturing have been buoyed up by increased overtime and higher output-related bonuses.

At the beginning of 1987, although overtime working was above the level of a year earlier, it was only adding about 0.25 per cent to annual earnings growth in manufacturing.

By October/November 1987 it had surged ahead. The group now forecasts that it will be accounting for about 1.5 per cent of the annual earnings growth.

However, despite the impact of overtime bonuses on earnings, the group does not believe it fully explains the upward pay trend. Its findings show that output, more than overtime, closely explains the underlining rate of earnings in the manufacturing sector.

In the motor vehicles sector, manufacturing output rose sharply in 1987 and average earnings rose by 10.5 per cent in the year to October 1987.

Earnings growth in some sectors, such as metal manufacturers, has been fuelled by output-related bonuses.

The report shows that with a low and stable retail price trend, employers have been able to reach pay settlements where the basic element is a little ahead of inflation: 4 to 6 per cent. Further additions and changes have led to increases closer to 7 or even 10 per cent.

Recruitment and retention difficulties have also led to a wide range of extra payments outside or on top of annual pay reviews.

Manufacturing industries represent less than a quarter of all employees. In the service industries, which account for 68 per cent, there have been exceptional "catching up" awards, such as those for teachers and nurses.

The Department of Employment has been relatively quiet over the recent earnings movement in the expanding finance sector, and yet the study shows that it has consistently had the highest level of earnings growth within the economy as a whole.

IDS Report 513 (Incomes Data Services, 193 St John Street, London EC1V 4LS).

First Ford pickets prepare for strike



Union members Martin Finan, (left), Mark Howard, (centre), and Bob Cady get ready for the picket at Ford's Dagenham plant in east London where an indefinite strike of workers began at midnight last night (Photograph: Dennis McNeenane).

Effects of the walkout

Dispute will hit Euro plants

By Daniel Ward, Motor Industry Correspondent

Production of Ford cars and vans on the Continent will be quickly halted by the strike at the company's 22 British plants because of a recently introduced policy of keeping low stocks of components.

Problems are expected to arise within days of the British walkout.

In the nine-week wage strike of 1978, the European plants continued production for several weeks, using second sources of parts as the supply from Britain dried up.

A spokesman at the Genk plant in Belgium said yesterday that production of the Transit van will be stopped by Tuesday because of a shortage

of engines and other components from Britain.

Of the 11,000 workforce, 2,500 will be laid off this week. "It is not the first time we have had to lay people off because of worker problems in England", he added.

Ironically, it will probably not be the lack of engines or bonnets that halts all the foreign production lines, but something so small and incidental that it is only produced at a single factory. Without a particular bracket, for instance, it may not be possible to fit the engine or another key component and production would have to be halted.

Yesterday, Ford said no

decision had been taken on whether to try to continue production in foreign plants.

By the start of the 1980s, Ford management decided that the cost advantages of producing many important components at a single plant could no longer be ignored in spite of the obvious difficulties in the event of a strike.

The vulnerability of the European network of component plants and car assembly factories to a strike was increased by reducing the costly inventory stocks at every point in the long manufacturing process. The "pipeline" of parts to the overseas factories is now measured in days rather than weeks.

Productivity gap is closing

Ford's Dagenham and Halewood plants have narrowed the productivity gap with the company's four Continental plants during the last two years but even in 1991, British productivity is expected to be 20 per cent worse than that of the German factories.

The British plants have been set the objective of bettering the quality of rivals Fiat, Opel, Peugeot and Renault by 1991 to match Japanese levels of reliability.

Dagenham's productivity was improving by 7 per cent a year until 1985, when a new pay and conditions agreement swept away 500 job titles and replaced them with just 52. Efficiency leapt by 11 per cent

to be followed by a 14 per cent improvement in 1986.

Yet last year, Ford's British workers still took 60 per cent longer to assemble cars than the Continental plants, though the deficiency on engine building was just 10 per cent. By comparison, the Japanese will build an engine in half the time, about 1.5 hours.

Improved productivity for engine building won Dagenham a £150 million investment for a new petrol engine plant which was to go to Germany.

It was only in 1986, helped by a shift in exchange rates, that the British plants for the first time made cars more cheaply than they could be

imported from Ford's foreign factories.

Wage rates are an important factor in Britain becoming more competitive in the car industry. For key car making countries, UK labour costs are among the lowest. German costs are now the highest in the world.

The Halewood transmission factory is Ford's best component plant and workers there once asked to change the name of their plant as the more militant car assembly workers had given the plant a bad name in the 1970s.

On a European basis, Ford is one of the most efficient car makers along with Fiat, but Nissan's Sunderland plant can build cars for £200 less.

Challenge to Kinnock

Left divided over strategy

By Richard Ford, Political Correspondent

Mr Bryan Gould yesterday criticized as impotent a group on the left of the Labour Party that is seeking to challenge Mr Neil Kinnock for the leadership.

As Mr Gould was warning of the damage that a leadership election would cause, clear signs emerged of divisions and doubt within the hard left about the wisdom of forcing such a contest.

Leading figures in the Campaign Group of MPs are worried that an election could result in a reinforcement of

Mr Kinnock's leadership, and risk further humiliation and a loss of influence for the left.

Despite speculation at Westminster that Mr Tony Benn may be persuaded to challenge the Labour leader, the MP for Chesterfield appeared to acknowledge the difficulties he would face.

He said that while between 80 and 90 per cent would agree with his arguments, "in any election the majority might not reflect that opinion. We have got to win the argument."

Mr Benn admitted that it was a novel idea to have a debate without a candidature. He was making a total critique of party policy, its right wing drift and the manner in which the leadership was attempting to seize all political power for itself.

The division over hard left strategy was highlighted when Mr Eric Heffer said a number of people would be prepared to stand in a leadership contest, while Miss Clare Short said that unless Mr Benn stood, there was not a credible candidate.

Wrangling to hit launch of SLDP

By Richard Ford, Political Correspondent

Disputes row over the allocation of party political broadcasts and the disposal of assets are set to damage the proposed launch of the Social and Liberal Democratic party next month.

The wrangling between the two wings of the Social Democratic party threatens to overshadow the plans underway for a successful public launch of the newly-merged party and cause a further loss of support among potential voters.

Both sides are preparing for a struggle over the distribution of party political broadcasts, the SDP's assets and the allocation of seats provided by the taxpayer for funding the parliamentary activities of opposition parties.

Dr David Owen has infuriated the pro-merger wing of the SDP by getting the right to a 10-minute broadcast on March 9 when the new SLDP is to be launched. His supporters will not say whether he planned to use the opportunity to appeal directly to the public for their backing.

His opponents are furious that it gives him an enormous propaganda platform in the week when the newly merged

party wants to be the centre of attention.

The importance of being able to have a broadcast in the week of the launch was recognised by all the interested parties because both Mr David Steel, leader of the Liberals and Mr Robert MacLennan, leader of the SDP, applied for the television slot.

Mr Steel has been turned down and while the Owenite camp said yesterday that their broadcast would go ahead, supporters of Mr MacLennan have protested to the broadcasting committee of parliamentary and television officials who will meet in the next 10 days to decide finally which wing of the squabbling party shall make the broadcast.

The broadcasting authorities have made clear that they would prefer the matter to be sorted out within the SDP. Mr MacLennan's supporters are refusing to accept a decision of the SDP national committee and SDP parliamentary committee that if the party split there should be a fair division of political broadcasts and that the Short money of about £55,000 a year should be split in favour of the Owenites.

Ill-treatment of Filipino servants leads to ban

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent

Filipino women have been banned from going abroad to work as servants until agreement is reached with other countries to guarantee protection from exploitation.

Mr Edmundo Llibid, Consul General at the Philippine embassy in London, said yesterday that his government had received many complaints of mistreatment.

The Department of Labour in Manila would not approve contracts for employing women as domestics,

except in diplomatic or royal households. Mr Llibid said the legislation would not affect people already in Britain.

Roman Catholic human rights workers in Britain, concerned about the abuse of Filipino domestic staff, are to seek full legal status for them. According to the Commission for Filipino Migrant Workers, many are forced to take unauthorized jobs after escaping from physical abuse, or sexual harassment by foreign employers who have brought them to Britain from abroad.

Father Keiran Heneghan, chaplain to

the Filipino community, said girls had been sent to him by police after they had been ill-treated and runaway.

One Filipino woman, aged 29, was too nervous to give her real name. She said yesterday that she had left her employer, an Arab, because of sexual harassment. Before she came with him and his family to this country he asked her to be his mistress but she refused.

Once here, he made further advances. Though he had her passport, she ran away. She was frightened of the influence wielded by her employer, a rich man, back in Abu Dhabi. A solicitor got her passport back from

the hotel, where she and the family had been staying.

She now works with two families, part-time, and as an office cleaner at night.

Roman Catholic workers say the Filipinos' plight springs from a decision by the Department of Employment to discontinue the work permit scheme for live-in domestics.

The Home Office said: "If they (Filipino servants) are in a situation in this country which they regard as intolerable, it is open to them to apply to their own government for assistance to return home."

Heterosexuals to be targets of Aids drive

Heterosexuals are to be the particular target of a new government Aids campaign to be launched this week to try and overcome an attitude of "it can't happen to me". Television and newspaper advertisements will urge women, as well as men, to take precautions.

Dr Spencer Hagar, chief executive of the Health Education Authority, spoke of dangerously relaxed attitudes shown by some people. "We know the homosexual response is changing dramatically. We know there is a side-off in interest among the community at large."

The advertisements will concentrate of the danger of one-off, casual relationships.

A Home Office video about Aids is to be shown to 49,000 prisoners in the summer because of concern about the spread of the disease among prostitutes and drug addicts. Fifty-four people in jails have been found to be HIV positive.

During the 1980s, the number of people with Aids in the UK has risen from 1 to 1,000. The following table shows the number of people with Aids in the UK by region and sex.

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FLY THE MAGIC HORSE

Building societies investigated over 'conveyancing bias'

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The Office of Fair Trading is investigating complaints that a number of building societies are discriminating against licensed conveyancers by refusing to instruct them to do their side of the conveyancing in a house purchase.

The practice, generally by the smaller building societies, means that the house buyer who goes to a licensed conveyancer is being forced to pay an extra £150 or more on top of his fee to that conveyancer.

Normally building societies and banks instruct the person doing the conveyancing for the house buyer to double up and do their side as well, which saves considerably on costs to the client.

However, the 100 or so licensed conveyancers who come into being with the ending of the solicitors' so-called conveyancing monopoly are finding some building societies insist that their own solicitors must be instructed to do their side of the work.

The Council for Licensed Conveyancers has raised the matter with the Office of Fair Trading after complaints from conveyancers.

One of them, Mr Christopher Giles, a licensed conveyancer in Brighton, said: "The Administration of Justice Act 1985 was designed to break the monopoly of conveyancing services provided by solicitors. But this

seems to have been only partially successful."

If a building society or lending bank refuses to instruct the conveyancer, he cannot provide a competitive and economical service.

"The clearing banks and the larger building societies have been wonderful", he said.

"They treat us like solicitors. But with the smaller ones, I feel that clients coming to us are not getting a good deal."

He added that licensed conveyancers "rightly" had to surmount a number of obstacles before being allowed to practise, including examinations of a high standard.

They then had to find £2,000 for a licence fee to cover insurance and a compensation fund; plus a further outlay if they wanted to give financial advice under the Financial Services Act, 1986.

"On top of this we now have this further obstacle from the smaller societies. It seems quite unfair."

Mr Nigel Osner, of the Council for Licensed Conveyancers, said he knew of about nine building societies who refused to instruct conveyancers or who were "considering their position".

In some cases they said their rules prevented them from instructing anyone but solicitors. They include the Bristol and Weston, Bath Investment and Building Society, Town and Country, Leeds and

Holbeck, Heart of England and Skipton. Banks include the American City Bank and Chemical Bank.

"It's the same problem for some one-man solicitors' firms", he said. "But it is very irritating because our members feel they are being treated as second-class citizens."

Some small societies are thought to be worried about the reliability of sole practitioners, but Mr Osner said there was no evidence that conveyancers would be more dishonest than anyone else.

There is also believed to be concern that some small societies may have a link with a particular solicitor that they are not willing to break.

Mr Osner has raised the issue both with the Building Societies' Association, which was supportive and had circulated its members, and the Office of Fair Trading.

The Office of Fair Trading is writing to all the bodies concerned but has no power to intervene.

In the meantime, Mr Osner said he thought there was a need for the licensed conveyancers to form a professional body which could take up issues such as this.

The Council for Licensed Conveyancers was a regulatory body, like the General Medical Council for doctors, but unlike the Law Society, it was not also a trade association as well.

London through the eyes of a refusenik



Mr Faermark and his wife Andrea adding to the smiles in a sunny London yesterday, three weeks after leaving Moscow (Photograph: Julian Herbert).

By Ruth Gledhill

For a Soviet physicist in London, Mr Viktor Faermark has the intellect and insight but not yet the language fully to explain his amazement. "My head is spinning. It is too much to take in all at once."

Mr Faermark, aged 47, has spent the best years of his life fighting a battle to leave the Soviet Union to live with the woman he loves, now Mrs Faermark but formerly Miss Andrea Wine, an American management consultant, of Pimlico, south-west London.

The couple's joy was complete when they finally took part in a marriage ceremony at a north London synagogue last Thursday, two years after

they were officially married in a civil ceremony in Moscow.

Mr Faermark, who first met his wife and fell in love while she was studying Russian at Leningrad University in 1973, said last night that his one regret since leaving Moscow and arriving in London three weeks ago, was that he had not had enough time alone with Andrea.

He has been too busy grappling with the concept of the deceptively minuscule cashpoint machines, Harrods' food hall, an abundance of restaurants and clothes shops and hot and cold water taps.

"It is pleasant just to walk around the streets and look at the smiles on the faces. In the Soviet Union, no one

smiles. The atmosphere here is quite different. People celebrate every night the way we do maybe twice a year, on May 1 and Labour Day. There is so much choice. Here, I am afraid to buy anything in case I see something better in the next shop.

"The streets in Moscow are so wide, they are impossible to cross. Here, you take a few steps and you are over the other side."

In Moscow, Mr Faermark lived in a small flat, where he shared a kitchen and bathroom with neighbours, and where hot and cold water came mixed out of one tap. In London he is living with his wife in a luxurious three-storey Georgian house with a tiny icon on the coffee table and two Russian

paintings on the walls, the only material reminders of the sparse life he has left behind.

The couple met two years after Mr Faermark first applied to leave, in 1971. Labelled a Jewish dissident, he openly sided with the refuseniks and instantly lost his job and said goodbye to a career in the field of semi-conductors.

In the next few weeks, the Faermarks will fly to Israel, where they will celebrate the Feast of the Passover, the symbolic anniversary of the Jews' exodus to freedom, on a kibbutz with 240 friends and distant relatives that Mr Faermark has not met and, until recently, did not know he had.

Heart risk cut by tins of beans

By Jill Sherman

Timed baked beans are more likely to reduce the risk of heart disease than other types of high-fibre vegetables, according to research scientists from the Agricultural and Food Research Council.

The researchers carried out a series of experiments on pigs at the council base at Shinfield, Reading, and found that eating baked beans in tomato sauce reduced cholesterol levels in the animals by nearly a third.

They then repeated the experiments on 17 students at Surrey University, Guildford and again found marked reductions in blood cholesterol levels. This time the tests showed a 10-12 per cent drop in cholesterol levels within three days.

Students were asked to eat a pound tin of baked beans every day for three weeks on top of their normal diet. After the experiment the same students were asked to eat a pound of timed spaghetti every day.

"We found that the cholesterol levels rose as soon as the students stopped eating baked beans, but this was not because they had stopped eating other fatty food. When they ate spaghetti instead the cholesterol levels did not drop," said the council.

"We do not think that we can explain the effect purely on high fibre levels. When we were testing the pigs we found that other high fibre pulses were less effective than baked beans."

The council said the researchers were now looking at a variety of factors which could have modified the students' fat metabolism.

'Make divorcing couples seek help'

Couples should be required to undergo statutory counselling before a court may accept marriages have "irretrievably" broken down, say campaigners who are trying to arrest the accelerating divorce rate.

The National Campaign for the Family made the proposal in response to a study on marriage and divorce in Britain by the independent Family Policy Studies Centre.

It shows the divorce rate is still rising and couples are ending their marriages earlier.

Almost 40 per cent of marriages in 1986 were second marriages for one of the parties - and one in eight for both.

The author of the study, researcher Melanie Henwood, said: "Marriage today remains a popular institution, even second or third time around. But marriages are now less

likely to stand the test of time."

Professor Richard Whitfield, director of the National Campaign for the Family, called yesterday for the repeal of the 1984 divorce legislation. "It is time to look again not just at the 1984 Act but at procedures which could change the climate in favour of marriage."

"We would like to see no divorce before three years of marriage - or the third birthday of the youngest child - and the onus on a couple to undergo counselling."

"We believe courts should tell couples to go away and think again."

Miss Henwood said: "I am sure some couples might decide they wanted to stay together with the right kind of counselling. But for others, anything that prolonged a marriage doomed to failure would be like hell on earth."

Training move to deal with violence at work

The Industrial Society is to hold a conference to look at ways of helping employees deal with potentially violent situations at work.

Sue Heaton, of the society, said aggression at work affects every category of employee. "In the extremes the consequences can be tragic, like the case of the missing estate agent Suzy Lamplugh or more recently, Stuart Gough, who was murdered doing his paper round", she said.

Speakers at the conference, Action Against Aggression, on February 16, include Mrs Diana Lamplugh, Suzy

Lamplugh's mother, Tony Black, former chief psychologist at Broadmoor Hospital, and a training officer from Marks and Spencer, which has a programme for training staff to deal with aggression.

Frances Sacker, head of the Industrial Society's retail and services department, said: "There is growing concern for the safety of staff at work."

"Besides severe stress in society, many service outlets such as booking offices and service stations have extended opening hours but reduced staff by introducing new technology."

Canine event to rival Crufts

An annual dog event scheduled to coincide with Crufts, and with almost as many varieties of breed, gets underway at Bonhams auction house next Monday.

The Dogs in Art sale includes paintings and other canine collectables ranging in price from about £30 to £20,000. The Victorians are responsible for much of the material. Artists such as George Armfield made a career out of painting dogs.

Victorian dogs are seldom portrayed raising their hackles, although a picture by George Morland has two mongrels fighting over a meal. Usually they appear in constructive pursuits: pointing during a shoot, presenting a dead duck, or simply posing.

Some items have added

SALEROOM

By Sarah Jane Checkland
Art Market Correspondent

interest. An engraving of a Pomeranian, after a painting by Sir Edwin Landseer, is inscribed by the artist: "To Mrs Estlin in recollection of the kindness in sending me the Spaniel puppy". A studded dog collar, engraved with "I am Bob, Mrs King's dog, take me back to 1 Sloane Gardens, London SW1", has an estimate of up to £200.

Dogs in Art can be viewed at Bonhams in Knightsbridge, south-west London, all this week.

The big two auction houses,

Sotheby's and Christie's, have taken crucial roles in recognizing and reporting stolen artwork consigned to them recently. Christie's in New York acted quickly when a client brought in a £200,000 painting by Georges Roualt.

They rang the artist's granddaughter in France to check the provenance of the painting of Christ. She told them it had been stolen from a gallery in the United States. Christie's contacted the International Foundation for Art Research, a New York-based body which keeps a list of stolen art objects. They also contacted the Federal Bureau of Investigation. A man has been arrested and is awaiting trial.

Last month Sotheby's in London came across four Greek icons which fitted the description of icons stolen from the island of Kefallinia in September. "We contacted the Greek embassy and the police", said Sotheby's. The icons were identified and a Greek woman has been arrested.

Two stylish Patek Philippe wristwatches fetched resounding top prices at Sotheby's in New York on Friday evening. One, a gold calendar watch of the model "Calatrava", circa 1935, fetched \$198,000.



'Prisoners at the Bar', by Charles Dudley, estimated at £400 to £600, one of the paintings in Bonhams' Dogs in Art sale.

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US threat to halt airport expansion at Manchester

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

Bureaucratic difficulties and red tape are blocking the development of Manchester airport and depriving thousands of air passengers in the North of direct services to the United States.

Three American airlines want to fly direct from Manchester to cities in the US and both British Airways and Virgin Atlantic want to open up new routes. But before any services can begin Civil Servants on both sides of the Atlantic must formally agree to amend the existing air services agreement.

Despite extensive lobbying no formal date for a meeting has been agreed and the American airlines are now threatening to drop their plans.

Mr Nigel Schofield, marketing director of Manchester Airport, said: "We are in a crazy situation. Manchester was somehow left off the agreement signed in 1985 covering the provision of air services between Britain and America. So US airlines can now only fly to Heathrow,

Gatwick or Prestwick without a formal amendment to the agreement.

"Both American Airlines and Northwest want to begin scheduled services from Manchester this summer and they are convinced that they can tap into the huge potential market in the North-west."

Part of the problem is that each side is anxious to use the talks to win other arguments. The Americans want Government action to curtail what they regard as excessive landing charges levied on them by the British Airports Authority, and the British want greater freedom for British carriers to pick up passengers in cities beyond the main European "gateways".

British airlines which have invested heavily in new Airbus jets may be banned from using them at night at Gatwick airport because of stricter noise limits imposed by the Department of Transport — even though the aircraft are classified as "quiet" under international regulations.



Mr Murdoch MacKenzie and the Skye ferry Glenachulish, which is for sale at more than £50,000 (Photograph: Tom Kidd).

The old Skye boat is going for a song

By Kerry Gill

The boat taking people over the sea to Skye is for sale, after 30 years in the hands of Mr Murdoch "The Ferryman" MacKenzie.

Each weekday between May and September, the Glenachulish plies between Glenelg, on the west coast of Scotland, and Kylebrea. The last privately-owned car ferry in Scotland provides a vital link between the mainland and Skye.

The crossing dates back hundreds of years and is the oldest route to the Isle. Although the shortest, it is also the most

perilous, with riptides sometimes running at up to 12 knots. Drivers used to swim their cattle across the sound from the Skye crofts to market on the mainland, and many of the animals perished.

Mr MacKenzie, aged 65 in May, announced yesterday that he is to retire. He lives at Glenelg and, with his wife Rosemary, runs a croft with 100 sheep. "I have got to retire some time, but I will make sure the ferry service is sold to someone who will make a go of it first."

Without the ferry, he said, Glenelg's economy would be ruined. To reach Glenelg, motorists have to

cross the formidable Mian Ratan pass, a single track road that rises more than 1,000 feet with sheer drops on either side. The ferry can take only a few vehicles but, during the summer, Mr MacKenzie reckons to carry more than 10,000 cars to and from the Isle.

He charges £3.48 per car for the 16-minute crossing, with a 1p toll on each vehicle exacted by the laird. Mr MacKenzie says he will consider offers of more than £50,000 for the ferry service.

Glenelg used to be a particularly busy village before the crossings from Mull and Kyle of Lochalsh were established.

WHITEHALL BRIEF
by David Walker

Chink in Downing Street's ice floes

Faint noises from the suite of offices on the north side of Downing Street have been audible over the past few days. Could it be the sound of ice breaking at the very centre of government? Not melting, you understand, but the first signal that the floes at the heart of Whitehall are fragile.

First, the saga of Professor Bernard Ingham. Or should that read Professor Sir Bernard Ingham? For the Prime Minister's press secretary will not leave Whitehall without a knighthood and might — the precedent was set by Harold Macmillan's pioneering PR man, Harold Evans — even merit a baronetcy.

Mr Ingham was once an official in the Department of Energy. An academic contact from those days at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne raised with him the possibility of his becoming the first director of a centre for the study of political communication.

The centre's promoter, Hugh Berrington, a professor of politics, says "academe is full of controversial figures" and envisages the Prime Minister's man teaching and consulting on the relations between a company and the Civil Service. "Lobbying is a troublesome word; it immediately focuses people on parliamentary liaison, which is quite misleading."

And there the idea hangs. The professors have yet to find the money for a project that the University Grants Committee is unlikely to fund. Officially, Mr Ingham is "not available". But the centre is not scheduled to open until 1989.

The mere hint of Mr Ingham's possible retirement caused a great fluttering in the dovecotes, far greater than the news that Mr John Major is to chair the "presentation" Cabinet committee, which in principle oversees the work of the Government Information Service.

The real power has been wrested by Mr Ingham, whose writ runs at the regular Monday meeting of information officers. No successor could hope to establish his personal ascendancy, even if, as appears likely, his successor is one of the team of Downing Street assistants which has spread out to fill the press offices of Whitehall.

The other stirring was evident in an office very close to Mr Ingham's, belonging to the Cabinet Secretary. Or should that be Head of the Home Civil Service?

Sir Robin Butler, who succeeded Lord Armstrong at the end of December, has doctored his second hat with relish. He has begun a grand tour of Civil Service outstations, talking to the troops, registering their grievances and patting their backs.

It is easy to mock this kind of exercise — as union leaders surely will — which will take Butler this week to one of HM Prisons and later to a DHSS local office. But refined stoking probably does cheer people up, especially when listening to grievances about child care and the promotion of women. Butler inveighs (most discreetly) against the bad press Civil Servants often get.

So far so good. But Butler, wittingly or not, is stoking expectations by such attentiveness. He may gently tell his clerks that pay is dealt with by the Treasury under tight formulae, but the utility of this series of visits surely lies in his eventually dealing with the pressing issues of relative rewards and the impact of pay on general morale.

Sooner or later, too, his shopfloor staff are going to ask him the week's 64,000 dollar question: what on earth does the report by Sir Robin Ibbes' on de-coupling various government agencies from their parent departments mean for us — for social security administration, for the prison service, the Stationery Office, for Customs and Excise? Would the Head of the Home Civil Service have any standing, and hence any cause to visit the staff of a devolved value added tax administration? The Cabinet Office and the Treasury have recently succeeded in giving the clear impression that they don't actually know the answer.

Motorway repairs

Channon seeking toll road talks

By Rodney Cowton, Transport Correspondent

Mr Paul Channon, Secretary of State for Transport, is expected within the next few months to take the first step which could lead to the introduction of privately-financed toll roads in Britain.

He would like to find ways of involving private capital in the road-building programme, though it is thought that his department's thinking on the issue has yet to crystallize into a firm policy. It is expected that among his first steps, probably in the spring, will be to have talks with merchant banks, building contractors and developers to get their views.

Already it is planned for Trafalgar House to build and finance the construction of a bridge across the Thames at Dartford. It is also hoped that private capital will be involved in the construction of a second crossing of the Severn.

Costain, the building contractors, recently put forward proposals which would cost several billion pounds, to be financed privately, for a tunnel along the bed of the Thames and the construction of a second tier over the M25. A spokesman for the British Road Federation said he could not see why Mr Channon should move towards privately financed toll roads.

Motorists already paid in taxation more than the Department spent on roads. Major roadworks until next Monday:

London and South-east

M1 London: Lane closures southbound near Scratchwood services.
M11 Essex: Lane closures and speed restrictions at jn 8 (Bishop's Stortford).
M13 Essex: Contraflow jns 8-10 (Bishop's Stortford-Duxford).
M275 Hampshire: Flyover construction between M27 and Rudmore roundabout.

A1 Bedfordshire: Single line working southbound with 30mph speed limit. Serious peak hour congestion.
Midlands
M5 West Bromwich: Lane closures jns 1-2 (West Bromwich-Dudley).
M5 Hereford/Worcester: Contraflow jns 5-6 (Droitwich-Worcester North). Northbound entry slips at jn 6 closed. Various lane restrictions and overnight closures jns 4-8 (Bromsgrove-M50).
North
M6 Cheshire: Off-peak lane closures jns 16-18 (Kilgobbin-Middlewich).
M6 Cheshire: Lane closures jns 20-21 (M56-Warrington).
M56 Greater Manchester: Resurfacing and contraflow jns 4-6 (M57-A5058).
M62 West Yorkshire: Contraflow jns 25-26 (Brighouse-M606 Bradford).
M63 Greater Manchester: Single line traffic jns 3-6. Long delays likely. Allow extra time for journeys to Manchester airport.
M63 Greater Manchester: Restrictions for widening of Barton Bridge. Serious peak hour congestion.
A1 (M) South Yorkshire: Contraflow and slip road closures between A635 interchange at Marr and A638 interchange at Redhouse. Signposted diversions.
M62 Greater Manchester: Lane closures jns 12-14 (Eccles interchange with M63/M602-M61/A580 interchange).
M63 Greater Manchester: Construction of M63 flyover at Portwood roundabout, Stockport.

Wales and the West
M4 Wiltshire: Lane restrictions, both carriageways, jns 14-15 (Swindon/Hungerford).
M4 Wiltshire: Lane closures at jn 15 (Swindon).
M4 Wales: Lane closures at jn 29 (A43M).
M4 Wales: Lane closures jns 34-37 (Llantrisant/Portcawl).
M5 Gloucestershire: Lane closures jns 9-12 (Tewkesbury/Gloucester).
M5 Somerset: Lane closures jns 23-26 (Bridgwater/Welton).
Scotland
M8 Lothian: Eastbound traffic on hard shoulder only at jn 3 (A899). Eastbound entry slip at jn 3 closed.
M8 Strathclyde: Eastbound lane closures jns 15-16 (Glasgow city centre-Townhead). Eastbound entry slip at jn 16 and eastbound exit slip at jn 15 closed.
M9 Central: Inside lane closed westbound jns 5-6 (Grange-mouth-Falkirk).
M9 Central: Inside lane closed southbound jns 10-11 (Bridge of Allan-Stirling).
M90/A90 Fife: Single line traffic both directions on M90 at jn 1.
Information compiled and supplied by AA Roadwatch.

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Wife denied last goodbye to dying man by late mail

The Post Office is criticized today by the National Consumer Council over late mail deliveries.

Mrs Sally Oppenheim-Barnes, council chairman, has written to the Post Office chairman, Sir Bryan Nicholson, complaining that delays are causing acute personal distress, financial loss and hardship.

She expressed the "unanimous deep concern" of council members about the present unsatisfactory state of the postal service.

Mrs Oppenheim-Barnes also condemned a recent suggestion of a premium charge to guarantee next-day delivery of first-class post.

"If a milkman told his customers that they would have to pay extra to have their milk delivered on time, disgruntled customers would doubtless take their business elsewhere", she said. "Post Office customers have nowhere else to go."

She described one case, reported by a council member, in which a woman was on holiday in a cottage without a telephone when her husband was admitted to hospital.

"Her daughter wrote to her by first-class post. The letter took five days to arrive."

"After two days, when the daughter had still not heard from her mother and the father's condition was worsening, she contacted police who traced her mother. She left immediately for the hospital but arrived just too late - her husband had died. Had the Post Office delivered the letter promptly, she might have had the opportunity to say goodbye to her husband of 37 years."

Delay in delivering social security payments can also mean real hardship for those who depend on them for essentials and there had been cases where notices threatening to cut off consumers for non-payment of fuel bills arrived in the same post as the delayed bills.

The Post Office said: "We handle 50 million letters a day and the overwhelming majority arrive on time. However, we understand any customer feeling let down when an individual letter does not arrive on time. We will be looking into the cases raised by the NCC."

The Royal Mail was spending £18 million this financial year to improve service. Some of the frustration experienced by customers over the past year was due to a series of unofficial industrial disruptions, a spokesman said.

"We hope these troubles are behind us with the acceptance this week by the Union of Communication Workers of a wide-ranging agreement with the Post Office which will give benefits to both customers and staff."

Commenting on a possible "third letter tier", the spokesman said: "This was raised during a wide-ranging discussion at a recent hearing of the Select Committee on Trade and Industry. It was made perfectly clear that it was just one of a number of possibilities."

The flying pink frogs

Scientists think they have solved the riddle of the pink frogs of Cirencester.

Hundreds of them were found hopping around the Wiltshire town after a storm last summer, startling drivers and shoppers.

Now, after months of research, the Gloucestershire Trust for Nature Conservation has an answer: they flew in, drifted from the sands of the Sahara desert.

Frank winds sucked them up and carried them thousands of miles to Cirencester where they were dumped in a rainstorm, which also left cars covered in pink sand.

The frogs sink deep in the desert to escape the heat and are dyed pink by crystals in the sand.

Rescue plans revised after disaster exercise

By Mark Ellis

Procedures for handling rail crashes in Britain are expected to be revised this week after Operation Gateway, the biggest simulated disaster exercise mounted in Britain.

More than forty observers from the police, fire, ambulance, hospital and voluntary services watched yesterday as three hundred volunteer passengers, 15 of them seriously injured, were led from a rail tunnel.

The operation, organized before the King's Cross fire in which 31 people died, was planned to test the speed, skill and co-ordination of the emergency services.

Chief Supt Alan Botwood, of British Transport Police, who directed the exercise, said last night: "I am sure we will learn lessons for the future if we are unfortunate enough to have another disaster like King's Cross."

The private debriefing on Wednesday will concentrate on ways to improve liaison between the British Transport, City of London and Metropolitan police forces as well as other emergency services, and to evacuate casualties more quickly.

Safety procedures for working in tunnels, control of traffic, dealing with the relatives of victims and the Press will be considered.

Yesterday's operation was delayed for an hour until it was confirmed that power had been switched off on an electrified track. Firemen said that in a real emergency they would cut the track power and that the hitch was only a technical delay.

In the exercise, a rush-hour London commuter train on the Moorgate to Weylyn Garden City, Hertfordshire, line was derailed in a two-and-a-half mile tunnel near Old Street Station, London. Fire broke out after two 11,000-volt cables broke. Realism was reinforced by dimmed lights. Rescuers were breathing apparatus but smoke was forbidden in case it caused panic among the volunteer passengers.



A "survivor" is helped from the tunnel by firemen during the derailment exercise (Photograph: Peter Triermer)

Three miles away, 100 passengers waiting for a train at Essex Road Station were led to safety because of the fire caused by the accident. To avoid complacency on the part of the emergency services, a fire hydrant failed to work and a man unexpectedly ran into the station shouting "my wife's on board" and tried, unsuccessfully, to get on to the supposedly smoke-logged platform.

Travellers passing the exercise were handed a note explaining that they were not witnessing a real disaster.

Hurd fails to stem 2,000 rise in jail population

The Government is losing its battle to reduce the size of the prison population. In the first of two articles, Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent, analyses the new initiatives and the dilemma facing the authorities.

The increase compares with Mr Hurd's belief that the main reason for more people being in prison is the numbers sentenced by crown courts and increases in the average length of sentence passed by it.

Certainly, a higher proportion of offenders are being sent to prison. In 1977, 13 per cent of offenders convicted of indictable offences received immediate custodial sentences, but the figure is now 18 per cent.

As a government minister, Mr Hurd cannot be seen to be interfering with the independence of the courts. The prison system has to accept who it is sent, with the danger that police-cell accommodation for the overspill is becoming a matter of unacceptable routine.

But the Government can spend more. Since 1978-79 there has been an increase of 117 per cent in expenditure on prisons in real terms and, since June 1983, 4,200 new prison places have been provided. Three new prisons were opened in 1985 and one last year.

And the rules can be altered. Mr Cavadinio says that in 1984 parole was extended to many short-term prisoners, so the amount of time served by them has been cut.

Now the parole system is under review along with remission. The Government must be hoping that the result will be less, not more, pressure on the prison system.

Tomorrow: Will the Government's plans work?

Police research suggests that the Yardies do not possess the sort of syndicate organization linked to major crime in the United States. Small groups form round a Yardie figure in a loose alliance.

Only a handful of Yardies, emigres from Jamaica in the late 1970s and early 1980s, have been identified, but they have established their own gangs.

The major problem for the police is that Yardies are thought to be behind an increasing use of cocaine in the black community, first in London and also in Birmingham. To cover their dealings the Yardies are trying to make some areas difficult to police, although there is no evidence that inner city riots were instigated by them.

Action against the Yardies would involve lengthy investigations, perhaps leading to synchronized raids.

Yardies 'may set up no-go city areas'

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

Yardies, the criminal gangs which originated in Jamaica, could establish no-go areas in British cities as a cover for their increasing cocaine trafficking, a police assessment says.

Metropolitan Police commanders are understood to be considering forming a special detective squad to combat the Yardies following a review of their influence by a senior detective.

A report circulating among top officers stresses that the Yardies are too disorganized to be called a "Mafia", nor are there large numbers of them. Much of the recent publicity about the Yardies is regarded by police as media hyperbole. Often it is not clear whether people calling themselves Yardies are genuine members of a loose-knit criminal fraternity or opportunists seizing on a notorious name.

The report, which includes a number of recommendations, was drawn up by Det Chief Supt Roy Ramon, after discussions with police commanders covering areas with large black communities in London, Birmingham and Bristol. West Midlands police have also appointed an officer to build up intelligence on the gangs, which are thought to be trying to move in on the Handsworth area of Birmingham.

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WORLD ROUNDUP

\$37m deal for New York paper

New York (Reuters) — Mr Rupert Murdoch, chief executive of The News Corporation, agreed yesterday to sell the New York Post to the property developer Mr Peter Kalkow for \$37 million (\$21 million) provided unions at the newspaper agree to major concessions, a joint statement said. "I have today sold the New York Post," Mr Murdoch said in a statement, adding it was the best decision "for both the future of the newspaper and for the security of our workforce and their families."

Mr Murdoch said he decided to sell the paper, New York's oldest continuously published daily newspaper, to the bidder "most likely to give the Post a further substantial lease of life." He was forced to sell the money-losing paper under a Federal Communications Commission rule prohibiting a company from owning both a television station and a newspaper in the same market. Mr Murdoch also owns WNYW-TV in New York, where it is the flagship station of his Fox broadcasting network.

FAO push Funeral by West

Rome — Key Western aid donors meet in Helsinki today to increase the pressure for reform of the big-spending but financially troubled UN development agency, the Food and Agriculture Organization (Roger Boyes writes).

The conference is the first step in a campaign to overhaul the FAO. The donors, including the United States, Britain, Canada, Australia and the Scandinavian countries, are seeking improved consultation on projects, better value for money and a more open approach to management. The FAO management has accepted the need for some change, and two committees have been investigating areas for possible improvement.

Rio floods subside

Rio de Janeiro (Reuters) — Flood waters have started to recede in the Brazilian state of Rio de Janeiro, where more than 11 1/2 in of rain in the last five days have left at least 85 people dead and thousands more homeless.

By nightfall on Saturday, 58 bodies had been removed from the debris of shacks buried by landslides in the town of Petropolis, 30 miles north of Rio, the Civil Defence said. The newly-recovered bodies brought the official death toll to 85, but it is feared that with at least 20 people still unaccounted for the figure will rise to more than 100.

Iran hits Rebel end US tanker forecast

Dubai (Reuters) — A tanker was set on fire when Iraqi jets attacked Iran's main oil terminal at Kharg island yesterday, hours after Iranian gunboats had fired on a US-owned tanker in the southern Gulf. The attacks, the fourth by Iran and the third by Iraq this month, heightened fears of a new cycle of Gulf violence.

The loaded 64,140-tonne Liberian-flagged tanker, Diane, was peppered with bullets by Iranian boats four miles off the United Arab Emirates port of Mina Sagar, starting a fire which the crew put out. The tanker was hit in the crew quarters and engine room but left the Gulf without assistance.

Marcos daughter 'ill'

Honolulu (AP) — Mrs Imelda Marcos says her daughter, Mrs Imee Manotoc, right, desperately needs medical care in the United States, but a Philippine official said the move might be a ploy to avoid an investigation into alleged corruption during former President Marcos's rule, the Honolulu Star-Bulletin reports.

"I'm pleading for help for my very sick daughter," Mrs Marcos said. "I don't know where to turn."

On the stump in Iowa

Robertson strikes a folksy note

From Michael Binyon, Des Moines

It promised to be an evening of good clean Christian fun: the Rev Pat Robertson, on stage with Ricky Skaggs, a popular Country and Western singer.

The school auditorium, decorated with campaign posters, was filling up nicely. Earnest smiles at the door looked us in the eye, repeating our Christian names in the requisite Dale Carnegie manner as they pressed into our hands the printed Robertson promise to halt abortion, restore family values and run schools on biblical principles.

Fresh-faced young couples were filling up the front rows, babies on their knees, ready to wave their "Young Americans for Robertson" banners at a dozen television cameras.

The older folk were there, too, dressed in those sensible campaign raffish clothes. Outside, the evening temperature was a bone-chilling -20°C, but in the hall there was a warm buzz of conversation.

Unfortunately there was a hitch. Mr Skaggs had not yet landed and Mr Robertson was on his way. By happy chance, Barbara Fairchild was on hand with a song to match. She is a Country and Western star, too, best known for her hit "I Wish I Was a Teddy Bear".

She took over with revivifying enthusiasm. "How many are farmers here?" she asked.

About five out of 200 raised their hands. "No matter," she warned us up with a shaggy dog story about dogs eating chickens on her old Arkansas farm, and then, inevitably, launched into "I Wish I Was a Teddy Bear".

The somewhat mawkish lyrics contrasted oddly with the speaker's podium, forested with microphones, into which she sang as cameras rolled for television stations all over America.

"Ah'm awfully happy to be here tonight. Ah think the world of Pat Robertson," she said. "Ah'm not a political genius, but Ah'm an American and Ah love this country. Ah know the Lord loves all the candidates — they're all good men. Ah happen to feel Pat is the man for the hour."

Her political credo drew wild applause. She compared his winning the presidency with David, the shepherd boy, being anointed King of Israel. More applause. And we all then joined in choruses of "Amazing Grace".

There was still time to fill, and Miss Fairchild resourcefully enticed a burly man in the audience to lead us in singing "You Are My Sunshine". The cameras panned on the happy, clapping audience. At this point, thankfully, the missing Ricky Skaggs entered stage left.

He adjusted his guitar and told us he had travelled all over Iowa "and, boy, do they love Pat Robertson". He sang a mournful song, clearly pitched for Iowa, about the family farm, the backbone of the nation, going "the way of the buffalo".

He was about to sing more when an aide whispered to him, the big announcement came, we all rose excitedly, and in came Pat, to a full minute of enthusiastic whistling and clapping.

Like all good candidates, he brought in his daughter, her husband, the babe in arms, and various other relations who joined him on stage.

Then he started straightaway, as preachers do, with a little incident. "You know I just found myself saying something that was spontaneous, and yet when I thought about it, I knew in my heart it was true."

The audience was too rapt to ponder the truth of his other spontaneous utterances. "If I win Iowa, I will be the next President of the United States." Wild applause.

He was especially buoyant because the Robertson camp that morning had swept the board in Hawaii, winning 82 per cent of the Republican vote in a straw poll, which guaranteed at least 16 delegates to the convention.

At a brisk pace, he outlined his political programme. "The

number one thing is I am a conservative. I have no intention of selecting as a running mate a liberal with whom I disagree just to balance the ticket. In the Robertson Administration, conservatives will no longer be a hunted species in Washington."

He spoke of the Russian threat, of how Moscow wanted to force Europe into economic subservience and set up a land base in Central America to infiltrate the US.

"We will begin the decolonization of the Russian empire," he declared. Arms would be sent to rebels in Angola, Afghanistan, Mozambique, and especially Nicaragua. A super-strike force would also be created to deal with the Cadafis, Ayatollahs and Abu Nidals of the world. No American life would be threatened by terrorists again. More cheers.

Mr Robertson then turned to the budget. Cut waste, not raise taxes, was his answer. He denounced the huge congressional spending Bills, the way Congress blackmailed the President into signing them by threatening to cut funds to keep the Government running. "Ladies and gentlemen, I would not sign these Bills. I would not hesitate to close down the Government."

It was an appropriate note, I thought, on which to leave.

Latin American leaders edge towards a common market



President Sanguinetti of Uruguay, left, President Alfonsin of Argentina, centre, and President Sarney of Brazil shaking hands after talks which took their countries closer to forming a common market.

The three leaders said in a communiqué that they were satisfied with their achievements so far in reaching mutual economic integration.

Uruguay was formally invited to join a future South American common market during the six-hour summit. Argentina and Brazil began moves towards economic and cultural integration in 1986.

Presidents Alfonsin and Sarney invited President Sanguinetti to seek formulas to overcome the differences separating Uruguay from its giant neighbours.

President Sarney emphasized "the joint effort to make the region an area of integration founded on the democratic principles restored in the three countries in the last few years".

'Lacklustre' planning chief sacked by Kremlin

From A Correspondent, Moscow

The head of the powerful State Planning Committee (Gosplan) was dismissed at the weekend, a month after the controversial decentralization of more than half of Soviet industry.

The replacement of Mr Nikolai Talyzin, aged 59, shows the difficulties faced by the centrally planned economy in coexisting with market forces introduced by the new law on state enterprise.

He is succeeded by Mr Yuri Maslyukov, a Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers and head of the Military Industrial Commission, who had been deputy head of Gosplan for three years until 1985. Mr Maslyukov was also promoted a First Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers.

A terse decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, announced that Mr Talyzin had been replaced after only two years in the job. "When Gorbachev brought him (Talyzin) in, he had the reputation of a reformer, but he obviously did not live up to expectations," Western diplomats said yesterday.

Under the new law, which came into force on January 1, 60 per cent of Soviet industry has switched to self-financing, which involves decentralization of industrial decision-making and, theoretically, greater freedom from central bodies in order to revitalize the sluggish economy.

Since the changeover, however, industrial managers and economists have complained in the press that the central planners have prevented factories from forging direct contracts by setting state orders which in some cases drain total capacity.

State Planning Committee officials, who are being affected by job cuts along with other central ministries as industry decentralizes, have been told to join in the reforms.

Honduras closes its doors to Contras

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

Honduras has told the United States to accept "moral responsibility" for the Nicaraguan Contras and vowed to turn away any refugees trying to enter its territory.

Several Honduran politicians have told US officials that the tiny country does not have the resources to handle a wave of immigrants and that Washington must be prepared to deal with the problem if large numbers of the rebels abandon the fight.

General Humberto Reina, the head of the Honduran armed forces, said in a radio interview that he had prepared plans to stop armed Contras entering Honduras.

He added that his country had not organized or financed the Contras, and he believed that the US had a moral obligation to them.

Honduras has closed most Contra bases along its southern border in recent months, as it hardens its policy to prevent the rebels from maintaining a substantial presence on its territory. Thousands of Honduran peasants have been forced from their homes in the south because of Nicaraguan attacks on Contra targets.

Congressional Democratic leaders are now drawing up plans for humanitarian aid, defined narrowly as food, clothing and medicine. But a symbolic 51-48 Senate vote on Friday, in favour of renewed military assistance, has strengthened the Administration's hand in demanding compromises when the Democrats present their proposals.

General Fred Woerner, the commander of US forces in Latin America, said at the weekend that the Contras were on the verge of a three-way split that would erode, and possibly destroy, their military strength.

The CIA intends to accelerate the delivery of Contra military supplies permitted under past congressional votes until the legal cut-off on February 29. US officials estimated that stockpiles would last a maximum of 90 days.

The rebels are deeply demoralized. Señor Alfonso Robelo, one of the six Contra directors, announced that he is resigning from the post in order to settle in Costa Rica, where he has business interests. His wife is Costa Rican.

He said his resignation was in response to an ultimatum from the Costa Rican Government to give up his position or leave the country. He expressed deep pessimism about the Contras' fate after US authorization to resupply them with arms runs out.

Two other Contra directors, Señor Pedro Joaquín Chamorro and Señor Alfredo César, announced that they would move from Costa Rica to Miami, where the rebels maintain their principal office.

Manigat faces strife as he takes helm in Haiti

Port-au-Prince (Reuters) — President Manigat of Haiti, who started his five-year term in office yesterday, faces domestic and foreign hostility. The political science professor, little known here after years of exile, takes over from Haiti's military leader, Lieutenant-General Henri Namphy, two years to the day after the dictator, Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier, fled the country.

But Mr Manigat has no popular base, inherits an effectively bankrupt economy, faces a loss of vital foreign aid and is under daily attack from popular opposition politicians. Moreover, he has not been accepted by the influential Roman Catholic Church and may have trouble exerting his will over the Army and Duvalierists, diplomats believe. Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, said last week that Washington was not planning at present to resume its aid, which was halted after polling booth massacres in November.

Mr Manigat's key problem is one of credibility. He was declared the winner of an election on January 17 that was widely seen as undemocratic. But most Haitians and foreign governments consider his credentials good. He is seen as having a relatively clean record despite his close friendship with Mr Duvalier's father, François "Papa Doc" Duvalier.

Leading article, page 13

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Japanese opposition closes ranks in Diet row

MP brands Communist Party leader a murderer

From David Watts, Tokyo

There was uproar in the Diet, Japan's parliament, at the weekend after a member of the ruling party called the leader of the Communist Party a murderer.

In a row that united the normally divided opposition, Mr Koichi Hamada, of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, made the comment in a discussion about the allegedly soft attitude of the police towards left-wingers during a session of the lower house budget committee.

In the topsy-turvy world of Japanese politics, the Com-

suspected police spy. The Communist Party at that time was banned and working underground. Mr Miyamoto was implicated in the case but exonerated on lack of evidence. The party was later allowed to play a legitimate political role despite US misgivings.

Mr Hamada said he was only being honest when he gave the offending answer. "The general public may prefer politicians who are straightforward in an easy-to-understand manner to those who display dignity fraught with deception," he said.

The incident has highlighted the strong anti-left bias in mainstream Japanese politics and public life. The right wing is allowed virtually free rein in demonstrations while left-wingers have to endure heavy policing.

Islands pledge: Mr Noboru Takeshita, Japan's Prime Minister, said yesterday that he will make persistent efforts to negotiate the return of northern islands occupied by the Soviet Union since the end of the Second World War (AP reports).

He made the statement in a speech to more than 1,400 people at an annual government-sponsored rally in Tokyo for the return of the islands. The Government has said the Soviet occupation is the most important issue blocking improved relations between Japan and Russia.

More than 1,000 right-wingers marched through central Tokyo yesterday demanding the return of the islands - Etorofu, Kunashiri, Shikotan and the Habomai island group off Japan's northern island of Hokkaido. At least 25,000 people attended similar rallies throughout Japan yesterday.



Right-wing group members carrying a picture of Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, through Tokyo yesterday, in a protest calling for the return of Russian-occupied islands.

Economic question mark over Shikoku bridge

From Our Own Correspondent, Takamatsu, Shikoku Island

As an economic investment it has been called as viable as the Great Wall of China or as unworkable as the ill-fated battle-ship Yamato which sank on its maiden voyage. But the Honshu-Shikoku bridge, Japan's largest civil engineering project, leaves no one unmoved.

The last rail tracks have been bolted into position and when it opens for rail and road traffic in April at about the same time as the Seikan tunnel linking the main island of Honshu and the northern island of Hokkaido, the four main islands of Japan will be joined for the first time. It will be possible to speed from Hokkaido's Siberian climate to semi-tropical Kyushu or across to Shikoku.

The story of the bridge's construction is a classic illustration of how haphazard

Japanese pork barrel politics creates seemingly insuperable and vastly expensive projects with little regard for their viability - the antithesis of the image of carefully honed, long-range planning which the country projects to the outside world.

The bridge, or rather six of them, hopping via five islands, will provide a road and rail link to one of Japan's least developed areas. Shikoku is best known for a special noodle dish and its agricultural and fishery products. It is the birthplace of Natsume Soseki, one of Japan's most famous novelists.

But the island has such an unreliable water supply that it cannot accommodate high-technology industries and seems either condemned or blessed to stay that way,

depending on your viewpoint, unless the bridge brings tourists pouring in.

The bridge spans one of the most beautiful areas of Japan. But while the conservationists have clearly lost the battle, it is still far from clear whether the economists will win.

Though it is the third longest suspension bridge in the world, after the Humber



and Golden Gate bridges, it probably ranks as the longest dual-use bridge. It has cost almost \$5 billion to date and will be ultimately only one of three that will link the main island with this relatively unspoiled backwater.

Each of the three bridge routes has been influenced by different politicians anxious to carry favour with the electorate. Shikoku politicians must be hoping that the bridge gamble will pay off as handsomely as the bullet trains have done on the main island.

Two bridge routes to Shikoku are named the Ohira and Miki routes, after former Prime Ministers who hail from the island, and the third is the Miyazawa route after the present Finance Minister who comes from Hiroshima prefecture on the main island.

The Seto Ohashi bridge will be completed first and a second bridge linking the Osaka industrial area with the island will open in 1990. The third will follow once budgetary constraints are lifted.

At the peak of the project, there were 5,000 men working on the bridge, of whom 15 lost their lives. Some 67 million hours have been spent on its construction.

The number of cars that will cross the bridge every day has been steadily revised downwards and a toll of 5,000 yen (\$21) or more will hardly boost custom. But though it has been estimated that the bridge will repay the investment in 30 years, there will be no specific way to measure its success as all revenue will be channelled into the construction of the next bridge in the series.

Yuppie haven hit by gang war

From Ivor Davis, Los Angeles

Westwood is the heart of yuppie Los Angeles. Unlike other parts of the city, the pavements swarm with pedestrians, many of them students from the UCLA campus, attracted by the trendy pasta restaurants, cinemas and bars.

The worst problem residents usually face is finding somewhere to park their Mercedes. But a week ago something extraordinary happened - gang warfare arrived in Westwood and an innocent bystander, Karen Toshima, aged 27, was shot dead.

Instantly, a well-oiled law enforcement machine sprang into action. More than 30 detectives were assigned to hunt the killer. The strength of police foot patrols was increased by 14 officers, local merchants offered a \$10,000 (\$2,700) reward to help find the killer and Mr Zev Yaroslavsky, a local city councillor, urged his colleagues to increase the reward by another \$25,000.

But other council members, representing predominantly black and Hispanic areas of the city, were outraged that such moves could follow one murder in Westwood.

For on the streets in their part of town, people die in the crossfire of gang warfare almost routinely with very little attention. In 1987 alone, 114 people were killed by gang violence in central Los Angeles - barely 12 miles away.

Mr Robert Farrell, a black councillor who represents the predominantly black south-central Los Angeles area, summed up their sentiments when he said: "There is a perception that a life lost in south or east Los Angeles does not measure up to a life lost somewhere else."

Mr Daryl Gates, the Chief of Police, angrily denied that his force responded differently to violence in affluent areas of the city.

But in Westwood, local traders credit continual and close relations between themselves, their councillor and the police for the response.

Mr Don Pye, a local business leader, said: "When a situation like this develops, you can make a phone call and get listened to. We've built up credibility over the years and we don't cry wolf."

However, many admit that the gang problem has been growing for a while. Some shopkeepers blame a film showing in the local cinema for the problem - *Raw*, the Eddie Murphy concert movie.

There was rioting in Westwood following its opening, and police now say it continues to draw gang members to the town. Other businessmen say gang members have simply discovered there are ripe pickings in Westwood.

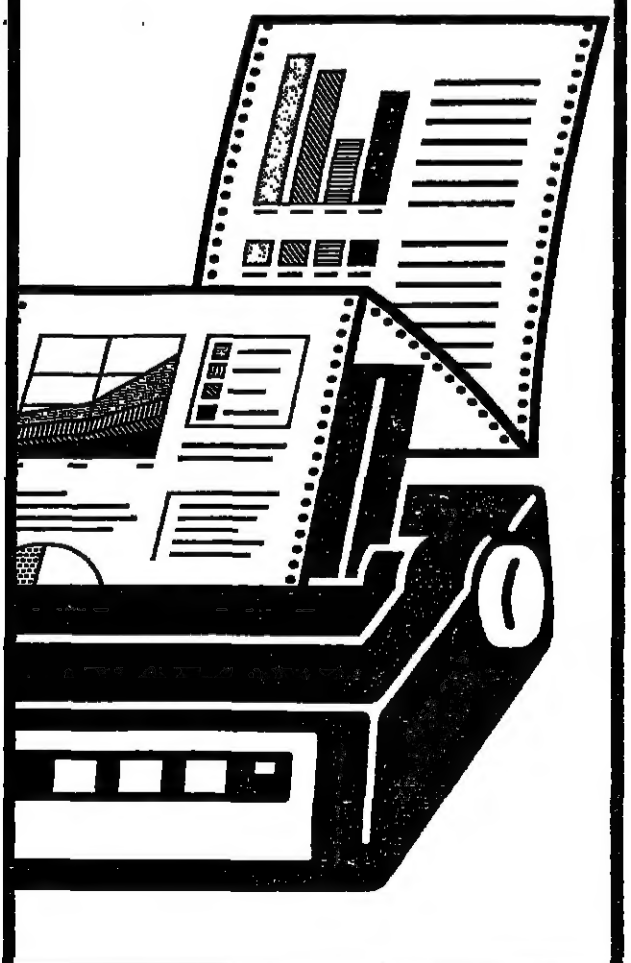
Whatever the reality, the death of Karen Toshima - reportedly a shy, self-effacing young woman - has left a complex political, economic and racial battle which can be expected to have repercussions right across the city.

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India's dowry scandal

Sisters die in suicide pact

From Kuldeep Nayar, Delhi

The suicide of three sisters in Kanpur because their parents did not have enough money for their dowries has shaken many people. The girls were found hanging from the ceiling in their house in a modest middle-class area.

The eldest girl was a post-graduate student in Hindi and the other two were studying for an MA and a BA. Their father, Mr Daya Prasad Sahu, assistant administrative officer in the Life Insurance Company, earns £130 a month.

He told police that talks about the marriages of his two older daughters broke down three times because their prospective in-laws demanded too much money.

In India, where marriages are generally arranged by parents, a dowry - which can include money, a television set and other household goods - is essential and is decided

beforehand. There have been instances where the bridegroom has returned from the bride's house without marrying her because the contracted dowry was not forthcoming.

The Government has a rule that public servants will not accept any dowry. But this rule is more honoured in breach than observance. Members of All-India Services, occupying important administrative posts, demand or are offered a large dowry, including a house and a car.

A law against dowry is as old as the British Raj in India, and the punishment has been stiffened in the past few years because of increasing instances of bride-burning for not having brought enough dowry and in-laws' persistent demands even after marriage. It is a social evil which society has taken in its stride, like discrimination against people of low caste.

In Tripura, the Congress (I) Party has formed a government with its electoral ally, the Tripura Upajati Yuva Samiti. The parties have 31 seats in a house of 60. The Congress Party has taken power from the Communists.

The Congress (I) party has also formed a government in Meghalaya, another northeastern state, although it has only 22 members in a house of 60. The party says that, being the largest group, it has been invited to form the government.

AGARTALA: Four members of the Congress (I) Party were killed by activists of the Communist Party of India-Marxist when the new government took office in Tripura, police said (Reuters reports).

The new Health Minister, Mr Kashiram Reang, escaped unhurt when four home-made bombs were thrown at his car yesterday.

They said police also seized a big cache of weapons, including home-made guns and grenades, from the Chittagong University campus in southern Bangladesh in the raid on Saturday night.

The activists, who were not students at Chittagong, had forced their way into the hall of residence and stayed there illegally, clashing with Chittagong students. Most of the activists jumped from windows and fled under cover of thick fog as soon as police entered the campus. Others escaped in a bus. No arrests were made, which sparked accusations by some student groups that the police had allowed the activists to get away.

The police said the activists

built roof-top bunkers and watch towers with sandbags and stones and repeatedly fought battles with Chittagong students in which nearly 30 were injured.

The Government closed Bangladesh's six universities on November 27 when President Ershad imposed a state of emergency to counter an opposition campaign for his resignation. Five universities were reopened last month, but students and teachers at Chittagong refused to resume classes until the outsiders, believed to be supporters of President Ershad's Jatiya Party, were removed.

Students have played a prominent role in the opposition-led campaign of strikes and demonstrations over the past three months in which nearly 50 people have been killed.

Bombs thrown: Activists exploded bombs and set fire to a bank in central Dhaka and tore up railway tracks in

northern Bangladesh as violence erupted at the weekend during a general strike called by the main opposition parties boycotting the March 3 parliamentary election (Ahmed Fazi writes from Dhaka).

Opposition sources claimed that more than 100 people were injured and more than 50 others were arrested in clashes between demonstrators throwing explosives and police firing tear gas.

The strike, the 22nd since an opposition alliance launched an anti-government campaign last October, immobilized public transport, and shops, banks and schools were closed.

The authorities on Saturday called out the paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles to patrol the capital and Chittagong, where 15 people were killed on January 24 in the worst clashes in recent months between police and opposition supporters.

Cigarette firms challenged by own reports in cancer case

From Charles Brenner, New York

For three decades big American tobacco companies knew that cigarettes could cause cancer yet suppressed the information to keep up sales, according to lawyers who supported their claim in a court with dozens of previously unrevealed industry documents.

The documents, gathered over a four-year period and presented to the court in Newark, New Jersey, on Thursday, amounted to the most damning evidence so far in the mounting campaign by cancer victims or their families to win damages against the cigarette-makers.

In a closely watched trial, Mr Antonio Cipollone is claiming that the industry misled his wife, Rosa, a

heavy smoker who died of lung cancer in 1984 at the age of 58. He is seeking damages from the Philip Morris Co, Liggett Group and Lorillard Inc.

In one 1961 memorandum quoted in evidence, a research firm employed by Liggett, makers of L and M cigarettes, reported on the findings of a test using mice that had been conducted since 1954. "There are biologically active materials present in cigarette tobacco. These are: a) cancer causing; b) cancer promoting; c) poisonous," it said.

The tobacco companies have long argued that evidence linking smoking to cancer is inconclusive. The manufacturers have been obliged to print a health warning on packets since 1966, so the damage claims

have focused on the companies' record in the 1950s and early 1960s.

So far the tobacco companies have fended off more than 50 damage suits, mainly on the grounds that there was no proof that the deaths were caused by smoking and that the victims freely chose to smoke, knowing there were risks.

Last Sunday a Mississippi jury failed to reach a verdict in a trial that some experts predicted would end with a finding against one American tobacco company. There, the family of a carpenter argued that the makers were still advertising the healthy properties of cigarettes as recently as the early 1960s.

Tobacco stocks surged on Wall Street on the news of the trial, but experts warned yesterday that the

New Jersey evidence, the first of its kind to be presented to a court, could prove damning. One decision against a tobacco company could open the floodgates to similar suits.

Mr Marc Edell, lawyer for Mr Cipollone, said his team had gathered documents which showed that the medical literature first alerted the companies to grave health hazards 65 years ago. He quoted a mid-1940s Lorillard memorandum in which a scientist said there was evidence to justify the presumption that smoking caused lung cancer. Yet, Mr Edell said, for three decades they "intentionally deceived" the public with their advertising.

In another 1961 document, the research director of Philip Morris reported that a medically acceptable

cigarette would require a "reduction of the general level of carcinogenic substances in smoke".

Lawyers for the companies are arguing in Newark that Mrs Cipollone was well aware of the risks in smoking. They said Mr Edell and his expert witnesses were quoting documents out of context and no one at Liggett had seen the research firm's 1961 memorandum.

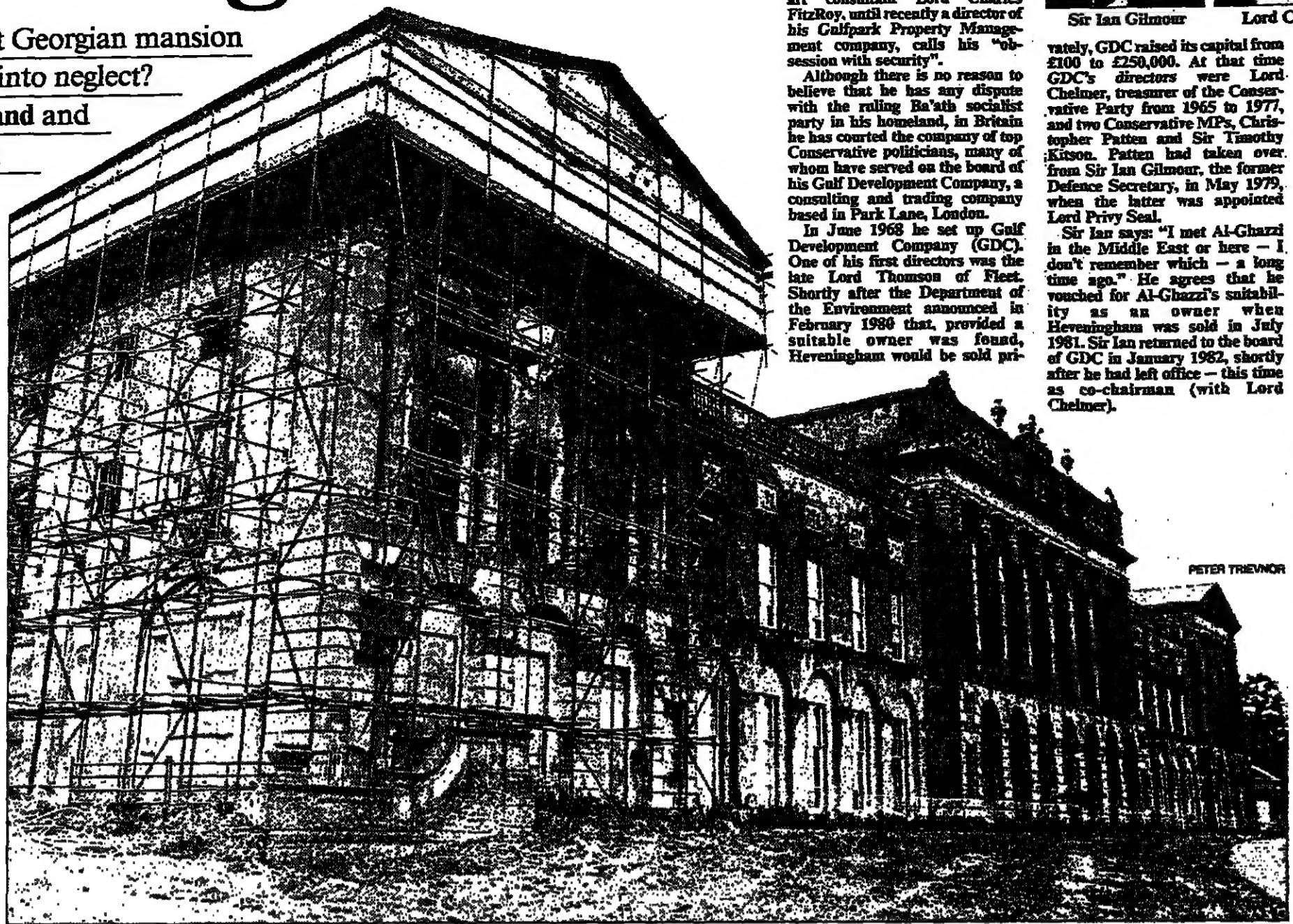
Despite the rise of a powerful anti-smoking movement in recent years, the tobacco companies have fought an effective rearguard action against advertising curbs. None is allowed on television, but glossy advertisements in newspapers, magazines and on hoardings still show glamorous models, including outdoor types, cigarettes in their hands or mouths.

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The mystery of Heveningham

Why has this elegant Georgian mansion been allowed to fall into neglect? Sarah Jane Checkland and Andrew Lycett look behind the façade

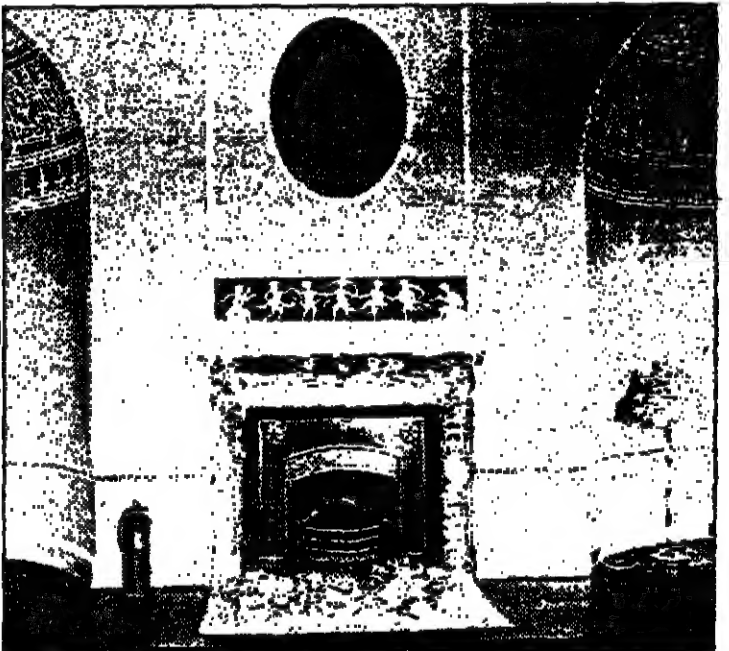
Saved for the nation once, a great British country house now urgently needs to be saved again, after an early example of government privatization has gone badly wrong. The house is Heveningham Hall, a Grade One listed building near Halesworth in deepest Suffolk. Designed by Sir Robert Taylor, its huge 200ft neo-classical facade dominates the neighbourhood and its magnificent Capability Brown parklands. But after a catalogue of misfortune — described by Merlin Waterson, the National Trust's regional director, as "a tragedy", the great house and its gardens now lie neglected, its East Wing gutted by fire. Due to the complexity of the Hall's ownership — not least the involvement of a secretive Arab businessman and a number of leading Conservative politicians — responsibility for enforcing the statutory obligations attached to its maintenance as a listed building has fallen between a number of stools. Starting tomorrow, at the insistence of Nicholas Ridley, the Secretary of State for the Environment, is the second public inquiry into whether the owner, Abdul Amir Al-Ghazzi, should be allowed — for, he says, reasons of security — to re-route the ancient footpath which passes close to the house. The first inquiry ended with an inspector's recommendation that the path should not be moved; Ridley did not accept that verdict, saying the issues were of "more than local interest". Officially the Secretary of State wishes to look again at the security of the Hall and examine details of a proposed landscaping scheme. But Al-Ghazzi's representatives have indicated that they do not intend starting work on the East Wing until the path is moved. Built between 1778 and 1784 for Sir George Vaneck, Heveningham's facade is regarded as the prototype for the John Nash terraces in Regent's Park; its delicately-painted interiors by James Wyatt have been compared with those of Robert Adam at Syon House and Osterley. Sir Nicholas Pevsner described the hall as "without question the grandest Georgian mansion in Suffolk". In 1970 the Vaneck family was forced to sell the house to the government. For a decade the National Trust administered it on behalf of the Department of the Environment. It did not have the funds to buy it itself. In 1980 the new Conservative government de-



cided to privatize Heveningham and the following year the environment minister, Michael Heseltine, announced in a parliamentary written answer that, subject to a number of covenants, he had completed arrangements for the sale of the Hall to Al-Ghazzi. The price was more than £700,000. Since that time the story of Heveningham has been plagued by frustrations. Of the covenants, only one — that the Orangery should be restored — has been met in full. The house was supposed to be open to the public 30 days a year. But, apart from 1982 and 1987, it has not — ostensibly because of the need for building works. In June 1984, the year when restoration was supposed to have been completed, there was a disastrous fire which completely gutted the East Wing, containing the Library and Pink Drawing Room. Little attempt appears to have been made to rebuild this wing, which for a long time was open to the elements, only partly

protected by plastic sheeting. Further misfortunes appear to have spurred Al-Ghazzi to seek the removal of the footpath. Important Coade stone plaques were stripped from the entrance lodges, and, last summer, a priceless Wyatt fireplace was expertly removed by thieves from the Dining Room. Al-Ghazzi has spent an estimated £2 million on rewiring and re-roofing, and has always sought the best possible advice, calling in experts such as Charles Brown, architect in charge of restoring York Minster after its fire, to report on the East Wing. Tenders were invited almost two years ago, but work still has not started. Yet some of the restoration in the rest of the house and gardens has, according to many observers, been patchy and in poor taste. Tim Barber, who worked as a surveyor at the house, says: "The builders didn't take sufficient care. They didn't cover the architraves, or use the right materials." Part of the original colour scheme has been over-painted with modern

mat colours. In 1984 the DoE was forced to repossess important James Wyatt furniture because it had been damaged. However, an authority on Wyatt's architecture, who went round the Hall on behalf of the Georgian Group, says: "One can always quibble about details of restoration, but all the structural work has been done very soundly." Neil Ward, assistant director of planning services for Suffolk Coastal District Council, says: "The problem is that the complex work carried out hasn't been done under one expert supervisor. We see many faces when dealing with Heveningham. We have taken pains to persuade them to find a British architect to oversee and coordinate what's going on there." It has also proved difficult to establish which government body has overall responsibility for the hall. "Part of the problem is that English Heritage and the DoE pass the buck," Marcus Binney, founder and now president of Save Britain's Heritage, says.



The James Wyatt fireplace ripped out by thieves last summer — one of several acts of vandalism which the owners of Heveningham Hall (above) have cited in their demand for the footpath's diversion

AL-GHAZZI AND THE TORY CONNECTION



Abdul Amir Al-Ghazzi is a bachelor in his early fifties. Tall, his curly hair shot with a touch of grey, he is described by an Arab business associate as "extremely wealthy". He is also extremely secretive. How did he come to be chosen by Michael Heseltine to be the owner of Heveningham Hall? Al-Ghazzi comes from a royalist background in Iraq — origins which may help to explain what art consultant Lord Charles FitzRoy, until recently a director of his Galfpark Property Management company, calls his "obsession with security". Although there is no reason to believe that he has any dispute with the ruling Ba'ath socialist party in his homeland, in Britain he has courted the company of top Conservative politicians, many of whom have served on the board of his Galf Development Company, a consulting and trading company based in Park Lane, London. In June 1968 he set up Galf Development Company (GDC). One of his first directors was the late Lord Thomson of Fleet. Shortly after the Department of the Environment announced in February 1986 that, provided a suitable owner was found, Heveningham would be sold pri-

vately, GDC raised its capital from £100 to £250,000. At that time GDC's directors were Lord Chelmer, treasurer of the Conservative Party from 1965 to 1977, and two Conservative MPs, Christopher Patten and Sir Timothy Kitson. Patten had taken over from Sir Ian Gilmore, the former Defence Secretary, in May 1979, when the latter was appointed Lord Privy Seal. Sir Ian says: "I met Al-Ghazzi in the Middle East or here — I don't remember which — a long time ago." He agrees that he vouched for Al-Ghazzi's suitability as an owner when Heveningham was sold in July 1981. Sir Ian returned to the board of GDC in January 1982, shortly after he had left office — this time as co-chairman (with Lord Chelmer).

In August 1981, the month after Michael Heseltine sanctioned the sale of Heveningham, GDC spawned a wholly owned subsidiary, Dreamgate, which in October 1981 changed its name to Galfpark Property Management Limited (GPM) — the company that has been largely responsible for the restoration of Heveningham. Initially GPM's two shares were owned by GDC and by another entity described in records at Companies House as Gulf Development (UAE), of Sharjah, in the United Arab Emirates. In November 1984 GDC's share was transferred to the Sharjah company, which then became the sole owner. Documents with the Sharjah Chamber of Commerce show that Al-Ghazzi was financial controller of this company. Among its three directors was Lord Chelmer, though he says he thought he resigned shortly after its incorporation.

The present position is obscure: the latest accounts available for GPM at Companies House are for 1985 (filed in November 1986). Inquiries by *The Times* in Sharjah show that Gulf Development (UAE) no longer exists. It was closed down in 1986.

Dennis Walters, who remains a director of GDC, says GPM has no relationship with GDC. "As far as I'm concerned, it's not a subsidiary of GDC. It has not impinged on the work of GDC," Lord Chelmer concurs. "I have never actually been involved in the management of (Heveningham), nor in the work that has been done on it." He resigned from the board of GDC in 1986.

Repeated requests to talk with Al-Ghazzi have been refused. The estate manager at Heveningham told *The Times* that GDC does not speak to journalists because "none of them are fair". He added: "Our views are very clear. We gave our word (about the house). We want extra security. Imagine if in your house there was a public footpath. I don't feel secure when I sleep in my cottage (at Heveningham)."

Asked whether he still considers Al-Ghazzi a suitable owner for Heveningham, Sir Ian Gilmore said: "Yes, I do. I can't imagine anyone who would have spent even a quarter of what he did."

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Older heads under the helmet

In one county, at least, the police are getting older. The Bedfordshire force is turning to middle-aged recruits, who are loving every minute of the job



Jane Caldwell: "People are more polite to me than the average middle-class schoolchild was."

Three years ago Jane Caldwell was a disaffected middle-aged teacher in a Bedfordshire comprehensive school. Today, aged 46 and the mother of four teenagers, she is WPC 902, pounding the beat at 3am in Bedford town centre and enjoying the sort of job satisfaction she last years ago in the classroom. Nor is she the lone "mature" recruit in the small county force. A few miles away WPC Janet Molloy, aged 43, and PC James Stockton, aged 40, both in their first year as trainee constables, are patrolling Dunstable. Their experiences are of interest to Scotland Yard, which is now taking the first steps towards recruiting a corps of middle-aged officers for street patrols. More than two years ago, Chief Constable Alan Dyer quietly abandoned age limits for recruits in Bedfordshire. Since 1986, 10 per cent of its 120 recruits have been over 30, the upper age limit for almost every other force. Bedfordshire believes the mature recruit is steadier and has a better understanding of people and life than a raw 18-year-old. Also, at a time when the police nationally are rely-

ing more on women officers, many of whom leave within a few years of training, the Caldwell and Molloy are seen as sensible appointments. With their children nearly grown up, they could give their employers 15 years or more of uninterrupted service. PC Stockton hopes it could be as long as 20 years. He gave up a job as a tyre manager and took a pay cut to become a constable on £10,500 per year. "I can retire at 55 with a decent pension and work somewhere else," he says. "The choices are all open to me. In my other job you are classed as an old man. Junior executives end up with bad hearts and high blood pressure."

WPC Caldwell had thought about becoming a policeman while taking an economics and sociology degree, but she abandoned the idea when she got engaged. By her early forties, teaching had become boring and difficult; but when she proposed joining the police, her husband "was quite bewildered at first". WPC Molloy had also thought about a police career in her teens, dropping the idea to get married. As her family grew up she started working part-time for the police, became a special constable and transferred. Having made their decisions, backed by their families, all three faced the prospect of 27 weeks' training, including 14 weeks at police training school. Caldwell, then the oldest recruit in Britain, found herself alongside a former pupil. It was a regime which included cross-country runs, carrying out orders at quick march — even for coffee breaks — and dress parades. "I have looked in the mirror many mornings shaving, especially facing a seven-mile run, and asked what am I doing here?" Stockton said ruefully.

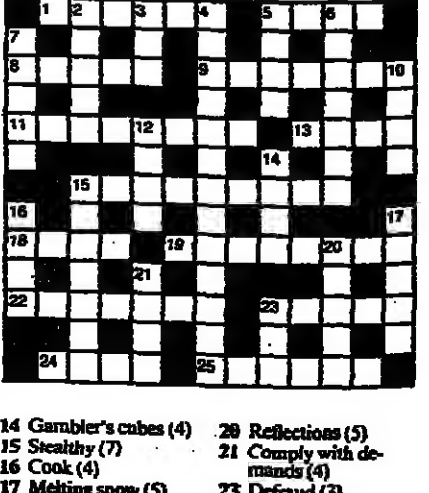
On the last school day the recruits faced a mock riot exercise; yet none showed anxiety at the prospect of putting on a uniform which has become a target for attack. Caldwell, who was once attacked by a disturbed pupil, said: "People are more polite to me than the average middle-class schoolchild was." Both she and Stockton have already dealt with difficult or potentially dangerous people and entered unscathed. Caldwell was among officers dealing with a schizophrenic

equipped with an iron bar, and also took part in the arrest of a man blackmailing homosexuals. A simple traffic offence on a Saturday afternoon led Stockton into a full-scale chase after a fleeing drunk, disqualified driver. He caught his man. Stockton accepts that the job is not one of everyday dramas but peaks and troughs. The latter usually occur late at night or when waking at 5.30am for an early shift, but there are no regrets. Caldwell says: "I love it. I wake up each morning and look forward to going into the station." The force has no complaints either. To the public the policy may seem like changing *The Bill* for *Dixon of Dock Green*, but Michael Taylor, deputy chief constable and head of personnel, says: "We are a small force with the time and ability to treat each applicant on his merits. The mature entrant can bring a lot into the service."

Stewart Tendler

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 - 5 Drama (4)
 - 8 Arterial beat (5)
 - 9 Boat side top (7)
 - 11 Obstetrics (8)
 - 13 Horrible (4)
 - 15 Exact copy (9)
 - 18 Castle group (4)
 - 19 Notable (8)
 - 22 Spinning disc game (7)
 - 23 Form (5)
 - 24 Disavow (4)
 - 25 Doorway beams (6)
- DOWN
- 2 Gut pain (5)
 - 3 Regret (3)
 - 4 Labour leader 1955-63 (4,9)
 - 5 Vein (4)
 - 6 Greed (7)
 - 7 Grudge (5)
 - 10 Level (4)
 - 12 Deficiency (4)



سكربت الراحل

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C&C Computers and Communications

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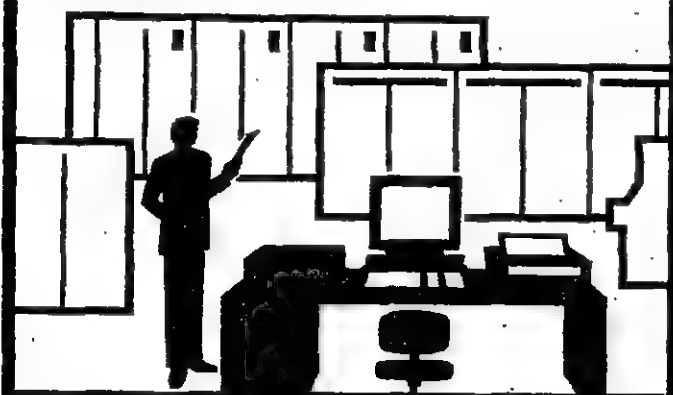
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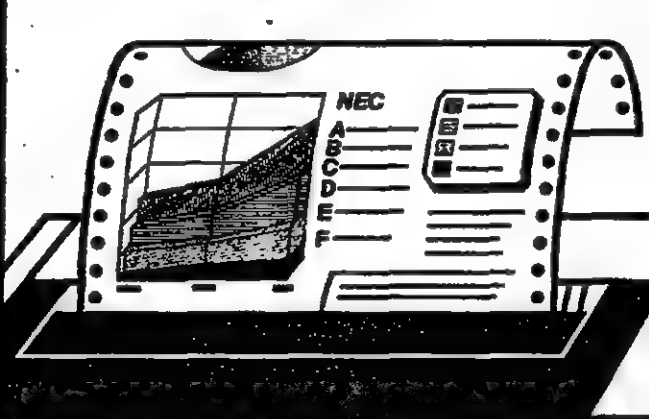
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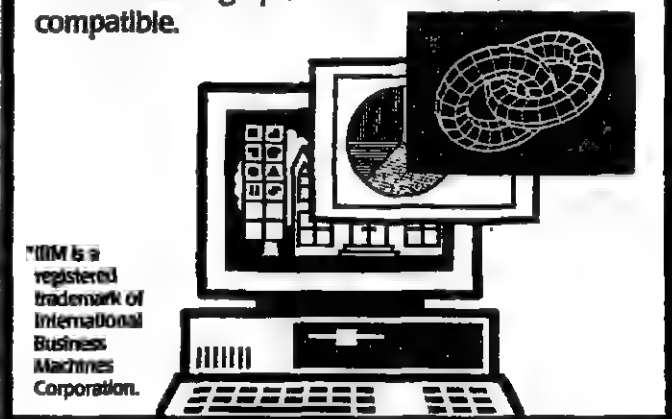
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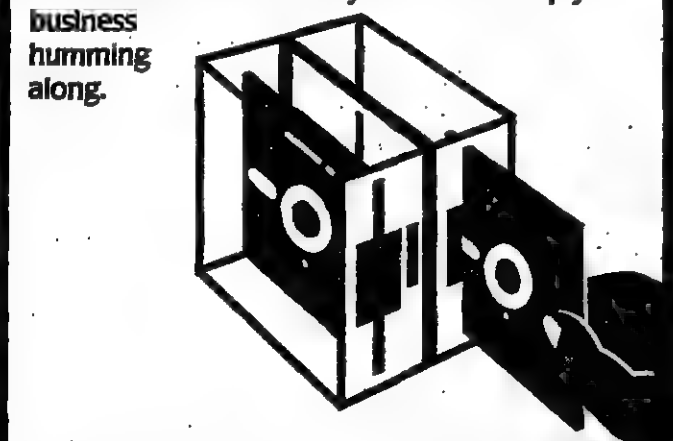
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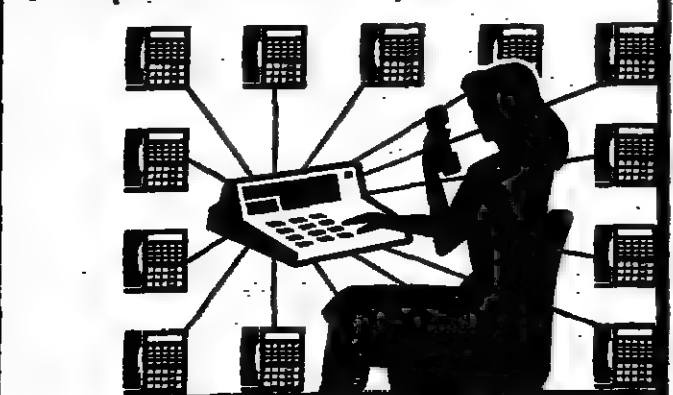
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TIMES DIARY CLEMENT FREUD

They arrived with their in-flight bags stuffed with warm croissants from Bertaux's bakery and cartons of Marks and Spencer's freshly squeezed orange juice; here and there friends who had come to see them off waved goodbye and wished them well. Prior to the start of proceedings they shuffled in an orderly queue towards the ladies (most of them were ladies) and it was noticeable that of the assembled company, which numbered around one hundred, 70 per cent were elderly, 1 per cent unseated MPs.

Inside they removed their coats and jackets and folded them carefully beneath their seats, introduced themselves to people sitting nearby and shook hands, then settled down for the eight hours that it takes, including a 90-minute break.

I write of *Little Dorrit* at the Curzon Cinema, Shaftesbury Avenue, in two parts, each longer than *Fatal Attraction*, which I had seen the day before. There women outnumbered men by eight to one and the average age was in the late twenties, exiles from singles bars who are feeling the pinch. Happy Hour is not what it was.

Tomorrow's vote on the televising of Parliament is the only genuinely "free" vote of the calendar. It is an issue in which Members can go through the lobby of their choice without involving the wrath of anyone — with the possible exception of their local TV station.

Unlike other un-whipped issues — abortion, capital punishment or Sunday trading — no one suggests that this should be the subject of a referendum; and yet enhancing or diminishing the reputation of Parliament, which televising its proceedings would do, has to be balanced against the possibility of losing *Bulldog*, *Dallas* and the *Antique Road Show*.

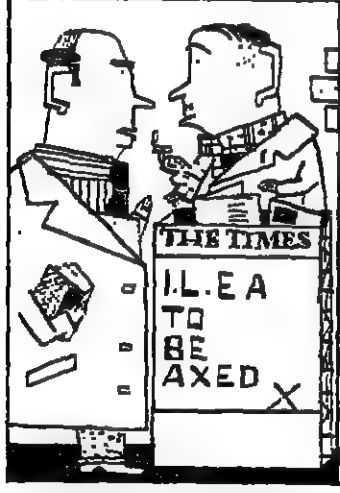
If MPs vote for the cameras (and remember that last week TV crews in the House of Lords missed the best "happening" in the three years that their impedimenta have blemished that fine chamber) it will have absolutely nothing to do with the wishes of their constituents.

Catchphrases date, but they do not go away until they are replaced. Could it be time to pull the plug on Norman Tebbit's "on your bike" now that Kenneth Baker is speaking about "cloistered cycles"? The Secretary of State for Education and Science is concerned about this cloistered cycle syndrome, which leaves academics with too little knowledge of the world of work; he wants men of learning to come out, open up and look around... old-speak for "off your bike".

Addressing the Institute of Directors last week, Baker announced government plans to give teachers their chance, at least once per decade, to work in industry during the school holidays. Were it not for his own tunnel vision (OK, cloistered cycle approach), he would know that as a consequence of his department's curmudgeonly stand on salaries, a fair proportion of young teachers already take jobs during the school holidays, not so much to strengthen links between education and industry as to make ends meet.

It would be uplifting if Lord Young, the Trade and Industry Secretary, could persuade industrialists to take sabbaticals in education and see what they can pick up... and what sort of life style they can maintain on it.

BARRY FANTONI



"I had no idea they employed doctors and nurses"

This is positively the last opportunity to embark on the "lose nine pounds over five days slimming programme" in time for the St Valentine's celebrations. The sure-fire system involves taking absolutely no sustenance except very dry white wine for days one, three and five; only water-biscuits on days two and four — though as much wine and as many water-biscuits as you like.

On the morning of day six, if you persevere, you will have achieved your target weight loss; the difficulty is to fit three days of inebriation interspersed by two days of rampant bulimia into a working week, but it is effective and the rewards are considerable — like two inches from your waistline.

At 11am today, Monsieur Raymond Barre officially announced his candidature for the presidency of France. He now looks an unlikely winner, trailing his fellow Gaullist Jacques Chirac by over two points in the opinion polls, with both men substantially behind the incumbent, François Mitterrand.

Of the two Barres is the most enigmatic, arguably the brightest and indisputably the plumpest — something he has in common with a fair proportion of his Lyons constituents. The region he represents is quite especially *sérieux* when it comes to gastronomy, Rhône Alpes boasting more Michelin three-star establishments than the rest of the country put together. Lyons is to be the location for the episode on gluttony in a new television series on the Seven Deadly Sins — updated.

It was not ever thus: towards the end of the 13th century Cardinal Hugh wrote in his day-book: "When we came to Lyons it was a town of few amenities and three brothels. When we left there was but one brothel. It stretched from the western wall of the city to the eastern one."

"The Church as it now exists, no human power can save. When I think of the Church I could sit down and pine and die." "I confess to entertaining the gloomiest apprehensions as to the future of the Church of England. I can hardly think of anything else."

These are not quotations from the *Crockford* preface. The first are the words of Thomas Arnold, headmaster of Rugby School, shortly before Victoria came to the throne; the second of Lord Balfour, prime minister at the turn of the century.

Oliver Cromwell, when arranging for the education of his son Richard, said to the school master: "I would have him learn a little history" — a lesson which the Church of England has found hard to learn.

For instance the Archbishop of Canterbury from 1903-28, Randall Davidson, was faced by two major controversies. One centred on Bishop Frank Weston, a rigidly uncompromising High Churchman who broke off relations with his two neighbouring bishops because they shared the Holy Communion service with Free Churchmen.

Then the Bishop of Hereford appointed to his diocese B.H. Streeter, a liberal theologian who had an open mind on the Virgin Birth and the physical Resurre-

ction of Christ. The appointment horrified the traditionalists and Weston added a third diocese to his expulsion list.

On the last occasion I saw Archbishop William Temple a deputation was awaiting him to protest against a reunion scheme involving several denominations in South India. The deputation had warned him that a thousand clergy would leave the Church of England if the scheme went ahead: "I think their bank managers will advise caution," Temple remarked.

Then he pointed to an envelope on his desk: "This arrived this morning. It comes from R.O. Hall, the Bishop of Hong Kong. He tells me that because of wartime difficulties and the ensuing shortage of clergy, he has ordained two women to the priesthood; and then with that wonderful chuckle of his he added: 'At least he has established a tribe of Levi so we shall never again suffer from clergy shortages'."

During the war, with conscription and travel restrictions, conferences were few and bishops and clergy did the work for which they were ordained. Then came peace, and the Church Assembly (the church parliament of the time) embarked upon the revision of Canon Law — Archbishop Fisher being content to spend 20 years drafting an ecclesiastical rule book which meant as little to the clergy and the man in the pew as the edicts of the Sanhedrin meant to the twelve disciples.

But worse was to follow. The Church Assembly gave place to the General Synod, with its many subsidiary bodies. I was one of the few bishops who opposed its creation.

Having served for many years on two city councils, Bristol and Cambridge, and subsequently in the House of Lords, I knew the rules that governed synodical government procedures would prove to be constitutional nonsense. And so it has proved, but

more disastrously than my gloomiest predictions.

The General Synod is inevitably the playground of ecclesiastical politicians. I do not question their sincerity, although about what they are sincere I am not quite sure. What I do know is that the world in which they live is an infinity from that of the man in the pew, let alone the man in the street. Tragic though the outcome of the *Crockford* preface has been, the incident is incomprehensible except to those to whom ecclesiastical in-fighting and gossip constitute meat and drink.

Jesus dedicated his life to the furtherance of the Kingdom of God in order to enable men and women to achieve their true destinies as children of their Heavenly Father. He said virtually nothing about the Church. With the General Synod, the reverse seems to be true: it is obsessed with the Church and appears to attach less importance to the Kingdom. If we

heed Cromwell's warning, we shall know from our history books that, whenever the Church has taken precedence over the Kingdom, the result has been inquisitions, disasters and the betrayal of the Gospel.

I believe the strength of the Church of England lies in the latitude it allows in doctrinal interpretation. But attempts have often been made to impose a more rigid discipline.

With regard to sexual rigour, there are few issues which excite the Church more than "bed" behaviour, but rarely consistently. At the time I was born, the bishops condemned contraception, but by 1930 it was accepted as normal. Now, largely because of AIDS, it is homosexuality that heads the list. When I started at Southwark in 1959 I sought advice on homosexual clergy from my brother-over-the-Thames, the Bishop of London, Dr Montgomery-Campbell, who advised me thus: "Remember that in this vast

metropolis there are creatures of doubtful gender, some of whom wear clerical collars. Indeed, it is thought that we have already women priests, though far be it from me to besmear the genuine article". As bishops knew so little about sexuality and genital research, he said, it would be wiser to maintain a discreet silence until we were better informed.

In this matter especially, the Church would be well advised to learn a little history from the consequences of its obsession with sexual matters.

The Church of England is but a small part of the Anglican Communion. It counts neither more nor less than its sister churches in other parts of the world — Africa, Australia, the United States or Canada. Too often it claims a primacy that is not found even in the Church of Rome. Its arrogance, for instance, with regard to the ordination of women in America, springs from a historical ignorance of the Boston Tea Party, with the result that some bishops appear to regard America as a colony and its church as an appendage of the diocese of London, which, at one time, it was "My Lord, I would have you learn a little history".

The author was Bishop of Southwark, 1959-1980.

Mervyn Stockwood on the lessons of history still unlearned

Church crisis as before

Bernard Levin

Pursuing the unmentionable



numbers, not colour, which had provoked concern. Even that most pleasant and genial of crooks, Reggie Maundling, had to go along with the absurd and degrading pretence; I remember him, sweating so profusely that it misted up my television screen, expounding the theory of "patriarchy" that some daftie (Lord Hailsham, probably) had dreamed up; we were supposed to believe that it had nothing to do with — er — persons of colour.

Well, the Home Office has long since mastered the complicated technology involved in the use of the colour filter, and the flow of immigrants from the "New Commonwealth" (another magnificently fraudulent term, also invented to avoid mentioning colour) has been reduced to the thinnest of trickles. (British consulates have learned the lesson, too — to such an extent, indeed, that the waiting list even for interviews, for those with a claim to be allowed into Britain is now two years long.)

Among the tricks of the trade is the rejection out of hand of a claim, made by one seeking immigration, to be directly related to someone already admitted and a British citizen, for the establishment of such a claim gives legal weight to the plea. But since wholly conclusive documentary proof of such relationships is rarely available, it is easy for the Home Office officials conducting the admission test to refuse the application, and in no time at all there is another draftee, with a wife and four children waiting for him in Southall, hanging himself with his braces in a lavatory at Heathrow.

Suddenly, the situation changes. We have recently read of crimes brought home to the offender by what is called "genetic fingerprinting", a most useful discovery. But somebody has noticed that the same technique can be used to determine whether Mr Patel is really the son of Mrs Dittu.

The new test, as you can readily see, has put the Home Office on the spot. With no scientific evidence, the officials of that lazar-house are not only within their rights in turning away an immigrant, nobody can prove that the decision is unjust — indeed, nobody can know (apart from the immigrant and his family) whether it is.

Now if there is one thing that Home Office ministers and officials would die for it is their access to unlimited supplies of injustice. At a scientific stroke, they looked like being deprived of a huge proportion of their precious commodity.

What did they do? Well, they could have said "We enjoy hunting foxes" that it has long been national policy to limit to the very smallest numbers possible the entry of "coloured" immigrants, that the great majority of white citizens agree with and applaud this policy, and that the Home Office will therefore use all means in its

power to enforce it. That, after all, is what they actually do.

Such a declaration would have the merit of being true; it would also be popular. Of course, it would draw fire from people like me, but as Alexander the Great said to Louis Quatorze (unless it was a different couple of fellows altogether), "How many divisions has Levin?" Above all, though, it would exactly reflect the situation that obtains at this moment; it would, in other words, be realistic.

True, popular, realistic; how often does any ministry, let alone the Home Office, find itself with a policy that has all three of those qualities? But did it jump to defend this policy on honest grounds? Come, do you still not know the Home Office, even after reading me on the subject for decades? It rejected the truth for a cloud of evasion; it said that the scientific test wasn't good enough, and was too expensive.

I am not one who accepts the claims of science without accept-

able and intelligible evidence. But the courts insist on an even more searching test, and even they have accepted the "genetic fingerprinting" test. So the test can send a villain down for twenty years, while everybody, including the Home Office, applauds, but it cannot be allowed to prove that it's a wise father who knows his own child. And at £105 for each test (the figure is the Home Office's, so it should at once be divided by three), it is suddenly so solicitous of the taxpayer's interests that it cannot countenance such expenditure.

Do you know what Bishop Butler really said? He said: "Things and actions are what they are, and their consequences will be what they will be; why, then, does the Home Office desire to deceive other people, particularly when it invariably fails to, provoking nothing but raspberries and incredulity, and serve the bastards right, my goodness me, eh, what?"

I have written a good deal about the dangers of euphemism, particularly the kind which leads to the belief that if you change the name of a thing you have changed its nature. The reason it is dangerous is that euphemism works only in one direction; its effect is invariably to conceal a true but uncomfortable fact behind a false but sweet-smelling one. But true facts, however uncomfortable, must in the end be faced, and the longer they are left un-faced, and the more they are painted in pastel colours, the worse their effect will be.

So it is with the Home Office's pretence that the new scientific test for propinquity of relationship is not conclusive on the one hand and too costly on the other. Behind this unsavoury nonsense lies a real debate, a debate about race and colour and prejudice and governmental responsibility and the nature of our society and tolerance and fear. Well, then, let us have the debate; is it right to ban hunting, or is it not? Some will say yes, and some no; but the chairman will be instructed to rule out of order anyone who argues that the fox enjoys it.

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Commentary • ROBIN OAKLEY

Family neglect

At Question Time last Monday Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Attorney-General, told MPs that the Government had now spent £575,000 in legal costs over the *Spycatcher* affair. There was nothing defensive about his reply. He went on to add loftily that it was "money well spent".

On Wednesday Sir Patrick was back before MPs with a statement on the Unification Church, better known as the Moonies. In a response that will have astonished the thousands of families who have been torn apart by the depredations of that pernicious cult, Sir Patrick said that the Government no longer felt the evidence was strong enough to pursue its appeal against the Charity Commissioners' refusal to remove the Moonies' tax-free status. He could not justify the "great expense".

So there we have it. The Government is prepared to use £575,000 and as much more as it takes to pursue its own ends over *Spycatcher*. But on a practical issue which could affect any family in the land in human terms it has neither the stomach, nor, it suggests, the cash for the fight.

No wonder government lawyers get a knightship to go with the first step on the ladder as Solicitor-General. Beside the pronouncements expected of them the normal hypocrisies of politics pale.

But the contrast in Sir Patrick's statements raises a deeper question. At any Tory conference or rally we are assured that the Conservatives are

the party of the family, committed to the preservation of the family as the key unit in a stable society. Yet can that claim still be sustained? The theory of patriarchy that some daftie (Lord Hailsham, probably) had dreamed up; we were supposed to believe that it had nothing to do with — er — persons of colour.

Well, the Home Office has long since mastered the complicated technology involved in the use of the colour filter, and the flow of immigrants from the "New Commonwealth" (another magnificently fraudulent term, also invented to avoid mentioning colour) has been reduced to the thinnest of trickles. (British consulates have learned the lesson, too — to such an extent, indeed, that the waiting list even for interviews, for those with a claim to be allowed into Britain is now two years long.)

Twice in three years it has not been updated in line with inflation. The one item paid directly to mothers, 95 per cent of whom spend it on clothing for their children, it has been cut by the equivalent of £30 per child per year.

Worse than that, it has been the subject of a blatant piece of electoral cynicism. The Tory manifesto said: "Child benefit will continue to be paid as now". The voters were surely entitled

to take that as "child benefit will continue to be paid bearing the same relation to the cost of living as it does now", not as "child benefit will continue to be paid at June '87 rates, whatever happens to the RPI".

Consider what the poll tax will do for the cohesion of the family. It will be paid by everyone over 18, and as Michael Heseltine has warned, it will be far easier for young people to evade the tax if they leave home and seek more anonymous accommodation in bed-sitter-land.

As for the notion that families should look after their elderly parents, poll tax will hardly encourage that. The pro-family party is arranging that poll tax will be paid by the elderly parent who remains in the family while those moved out into a local authority home will pay none. Nicholas Ridley, the Environment Secretary, will have given us the granny tax.

None of this, of course, is deliberate. It is the accidental outcome of a range of policies. In its social security measures, for example, the Government is making efforts to target more help, not less, on the worst-off families. But has an overall objective got lost somewhere?

I only note in passing that whereas the 1983 Conservative manifesto promised to build a society which allowed the family to flourish, and had a complete chapter devoted to "Responsibility and the Family", you can comb through all 77 pages of the 1987 manifesto without seeing the word family once.

SCIENCE REPORT

Dolphin and Doggie

British scientists are looking down. They are at work on a long-term plan to build small, unmanned robots that could be sent out to explore the depths of the ocean, just as satellites survey the Earth from space.

The Autosub programme is the creation of Dr Brian McCartney, director of the National Environment Research Council's Proudman Oceanographic Laboratory near Liverpool.

The idea came as a response to the challenge posed by the rapid advance of information technology. Scientists hope that the new super-computers can be used to predict accurately the great changes in the ocean's currents, affecting as they do global weather patterns and the world's fishing industries.

Ocean surveys carried out in the traditional way, by ships, could never hope to guess a super-computer's third for data. Thus the potential for fleets of robot submarines.

McCartney envisages a self-propelled, teardrop-shaped robot submarine called *Dolphin* (Deep Ocean, Long Path, Hydrographic Instrument) which could perform many of the tasks of an ocean-going survey ship. On a normal transatlantic run a survey ship stops at a hundred or so sites to lower instruments that measure the ocean's temperature, salinity, pressure, currents



David Hunt

and so on at various depths. Some six to eight hours are needed at each survey point. Gathering data is slow and expensive — each transatlantic trip costs more than £500,000. Packed with electronics, *Dolphin* could be launched from Land's End, for example, and then left to its own devices. It would use small on-board computers to find its own way across the ocean, over to Cape Cod perhaps. While at sea, *Dolphin* would follow pre-programmed instructions, descending to the depths to make measurements and then coming up to the surface to check its position and to relay by satellite the information it had collected. *Dolphin* could collect twice as much information

as a survey ship in the same length of time.

Dolphin's activities could be supplemented by a free-ranging robot called *Doggie* (Deep Ocean, Geological and Geophysical Explorer), designed to survey the seabed close up, using sonar.

Dropped from a ship, *Doggie* could be left to manoeuvre along a pre-programmed course on the sea bed, collecting data as it went, and then be picked up several days later.

Unmanned submarines could hold up where mariners dare not venture — under the ice cap and into the depths of storms. They could also follow the paths of underwater eddies and currents.

The design and construction of *Dolphin* and *Doggie* will pose formidable technical problems. A new battery will have to be developed to propel *Dolphin* for 4,000 miles while also powering its computer and instruments. New materials will be needed to provide a light hull capable of withstanding the enormous pressures of the deep sea. McCartney thinks much could be learnt from spacecraft design and construction.

Prototypes might be ready by the early 1990s but large-scale exploration seems unlikely before the next century.

HENRY GEE

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MARKET MECHANISMS

By the end of this week, we will all be a little wiser about what went wrong with world stock markets on October 19 last year, the day Wall Street followed London into precipitous decline and lost nearly a quarter of its value in six hours. A little wiser, but not a lot wiser. Piece by piece, the events of the week which began with "Black Monday" and ended with every American being \$5,000 the poorer, on paper at least, are being assembled into a complete picture.

This week, a month after the United States presidential task force completed and published an inch-thick report into the crash, the London Stock Exchange will produce its own findings, while the Bank of England is set to outline the results of its own investigation in the regular *Quarterly Bulletin*. In the United States capital, a Senate inquiry continues to take evidence.

The various inquiries are concerned with the mechanisms of the market rather than the underlying problems of the United States economy which caused investors to sell shares rather than buy them. The view is being taken, narrowly but rightly, that the markets must be able to function efficiently and without panic no matter what unexpected economic information hits the news wires.

"Black Monday" was sparked by an unexpectedly high trade deficit in the United States on the previous Friday. Over the weekend, investors considered the economic situation and on Monday morning came in to sell. The question is not what turned up the gas, but why the market boiled over.

Those who use the markets and those who have to regulate them have already arrived at a number of common conclusions. The most important, and with hindsight the most obvious, is that what were previously independent markets have become inextricably linked. The futures and options markets are tied, through overlapping financial instruments, to the stock markets. And the stock markets of London, New York and Tokyo can no longer function in isolation.

The different investigations are all being independently conducted: London taking opinions from the City institutions, the United States Government looking to the gurus of Wall Street, Tokyo keeping quiet. But there is still scope to learn from each other's experiences.

The action in the United States is being played out on the public stage. Like the investigations into Watergate and the arms-for-hostages scandals, the current inquiry into the market crash has been taking evidence

before the world's Press, and the investigators are asking questions. If the London authorities listen with care, they may learn a lot.

Last week, John Phelan, the chairman of the New York Stock Exchange told the Senate investigating committee that he feared that violations of his own exchange's rules by firms operating through London were a contributory factor to the crash. It was already clear that the unprecedented declines were due to the interaction of sophisticated futures and options contracts with the stock markets. It is now emerging that "short selling" (selling shares which the vendor does not own in the expectation of buying them back again at a lower price) of New York stocks was taking place through London, in market conditions which would have ruled out short selling on Wall Street itself. While New York was closing the door, London was opening the window.

These are serious allegations and it is to be hoped that the Bank of England and the London Stock Exchange will have investigated this aspect of the crash. But unlike our more open American cousins these institutions have prepared their forthcoming reports in quiet corners taking evidence "off the record", so we cannot know for certain. From what has emerged so far, it does not appear that either the Bank of England or the Stock Exchange will recommend radical reforms, or indeed any reforms at all.

The chairman of the Stock Exchange, Sir Nicholas Goodison, has repeatedly emphasized that London "coped" and did not have to close its doors for business at any time during the crash. But there is ample evidence that it was not always possible for clients to deal. The telephones were left off the market makers' hooks. The market coped, certainly, but it is also capable of improvement.

Even if London had operated faultlessly, its contribution to the savage 508 point decline on Wall Street, indicates that a domestic solution is not enough. One purpose of the deregulation of the London securities markets, "Big Bang", was to ensure its place on the world securities stage, so that London trading would follow Tokyo and then hand over to New York as naturally as night follows day.

New York is changing the rules in the wake of the October crash, but will rightly feel let down if nothing is done to prevent its regulations being circumvented overseas. If Mr Phelan's comment at the weekend that everyone is "flying blind" is to be disproved then London should be taking a closer look at its role in the world securities network.

MR MANIGAT'S DILEMMA

Two years to the day since Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier was forced into exile, his Caribbean island of Haiti has a new president. Mr Leslie Manigat was installed on yesterday's auspicious anniversary, three weeks after winning power in the country's first election for 30 years.

So much for the good news. The bad news is that his victory was secured in a poll which observers declared to be less than "free and fair". The other four main candidates withdrew, in protest over the way in which it was controlled by the army. Even the official figures show that no more than one in three voted — and some say that the real turnout was only one in ten. As the island's first attempt at an election two months earlier was aborted amid bloodshed and intimidation, few can blame the more prudent voters for staying at home.

Mr Manigat refused to join the boycott, explaining that no solution to the island's crisis was possible without the co-operation of the army. He thus quickly became the army's own choice for president — and in such circumstances could hardly lose.

A one-time associate of the hated Duvalier family, Mr Manigat broke with them when they tried to seize control of the university in Port-au-Prince, and fled into exile himself for over 20 years. A professor of history and international relations, with some diplomatic experience behind him, he is probably the best-known Haitian abroad and certainly among the cleverest. A Catholic by faith and anti-Communist by inclination, he has also said all the right things since topping the poll, promising not only democracy but a broadly-based administration to unite the people.

Critics point however to his personal ambition and pragmatism, which has led him, so they say, to sell his soul to the military in exchange for power. His compliance with an election which sceptics say was rigged, has

undermined the legitimacy of his presidency and simply renewed their calls for a fresh poll.

To that, Mr Manigat's reply has been "wait and see". He is probably speaking no more than the truth (however unpalatable) when he says that no one can rule Haiti without the army's blessing. The island has been effectively under military or authoritarian rule for so long, that only a revolution could quickly change things. The 7,000-strong army is the only organized force on the island. No president could fail to be aware of this.

Mr Manigat's problem is that the continuing support of the army is not enough. He also needs the approval of outside powers, notably the United States, Canada and France, which cut their aid to Haiti in protest against the lack of real democracy. Without that aid, he will find his task of rebuilding the shattered economy very difficult. Yet to win it, he may have to forfeit power — and stand again.

If President Manigat is sincere in wanting to improve the quality of life on Haiti, which has the unenviable reputation of being the poorest country in the Western hemisphere, there are a number of programmes he should push through, including reform of the currency and land tenure. A campaign of this kind would risk bringing him into conflict with the army and ruling classes. If he can show his good intentions early on however, and then present himself for re-election, he might win the consensus he needs to stand up to the military — and find favour in Washington and elsewhere.

Haiti has been through so much for so long, that no one should expect him to achieve miracles overnight. But they have a right to expect him to try. President Manigat sets out with the good will of the army, which is no bad thing considering his task. He has now to win the good will of the people. At least he deserves a chance to show the West what he can do.

Reform of NHS

From Mr J. B. H. Byfield
Sir, The idea (Professor Lydall, January 22) of investigating a "credit card" system to cure the present ills of the NHS seems to embody several basic disadvantages unlikely to receive any support from many UK electors.

It seems basically wrong that any medical service should be paid for by the patient as expenses are incurred during treatment. Quite apart from the fact that expenses are likely to escalate at a rate far beyond the financial ability of the average patient to repay prolonged medical care and/or often results in reduction of earning capacity which would make the idea of repayment after the event impractical and penal.

Recent figures show (report, February 1) that only a quarter of people currently covered by private medical insurance in the UK are individual subscribers; all the remainder are group or company subscribers. For it is only in schemes involving groups of people that the basic principle of insuring against some possible future illness can be achieved with realistically low premiums. This is of particular importance to the

elderly, who could not afford the high premiums which their age would otherwise attract.

You write (leading article, January 23) of the "urgency" of the treatment Mr Moore required and then, "He (Mr Moore) wanted it very urgently". Such a statement could refer to either a desperate medical condition or — quite differently — to the speed with which he wished to return to work. The first condition is one in which only the medical profession is competent to establish priorities. The second is one of convenience to the individual patient and of no direct concern to the medical profession.

Assuming (and hoping) that it would be completely unacceptable in the UK to have the equivalent of the 37 million Americans without health cover and therefore dependent on charity or facing bankruptcy, the answer as far as funding is concerned must surely involve compulsory insurance for everyone.

Yours faithfully,
J. B. H. BYFIELD,
Burrough Street,
Ash,
Mantock, Somerset.
February 1.

Sick as a parrot?

From the Reverend Arthur Moss
Sir, Do garden birds ever become sick as they swing furiously on the nut dispensers we provide for them outside our windows? The winter gales make the whole exercise horrendous.

Mal de mer can be detected easily enough by our fellow passengers' change of colour but the face of the tit is always white and the greenfinch is green. The sparrow hides its condition by never appearing washed. There are, however, degrees of seasickness to be observed.

The bluetit may be sick but he is like a weekend dinghy sailor; there for the hell of it, whatever the weather. Greenfinches go as passengers but more circumspectly as their claws, while the chaffinch knows the whole thing is ridiculous and waits for the others to drop crumbs to the ground.

Is there any political mileage in this for the parties at this stormy time?
Yours faithfully,
ARTHUR MOSS,
1 Withall Drive,
Cannington, Somerset.
February 1.

Irish suspicion of British justice

From Senator John Robb

Sir, In a settled society, failure to equate law and order with justice would be a cause of disunion. In Northern Ireland's bitterly divided society, such failure undermines the work of men and women of good will, further 'erodes confidence in institutions and seriously undermines the strenuous efforts which are being made to advance the acceptability of the Royal Ulster Constabulary throughout the community.

In 1982, security forces shot dead six unarmed men without trial in a country which has no death penalty. All attempts to elucidate the truth through enquiry have been thwarted. The "Stalkerisation" of justice is an indictment of Mrs Thatcher's Government and has been a significant factor in the reaction in Ireland to the failure of the appeal by the Birmingham "six".

Yours sincerely,
JOHN ROBB (Chairman,
New Ireland Group),
Fountain Centre,
College Street,
Belfast.
February 2.

From Dr Des Keenan
Sir, Mr Uley's article ("About turn on internment", February 2) raises the question how one legislates against prejudice.

It was the Rev Sidney Smith, I believe, who said that normally sane Englishmen took leave of their senses when discussing Ireland. The converse is true also. Most Irishmen appear incapable of rational thought when discussing England.

If one reads the Irish newspapers of 150 years ago at the time of the so-called "Tithing War" we find the same allegations regarding a policy of "shoot to kill", the same allegations that the coroners

juries, the county grand juries, and the trial juries were fixed, that the attorney general, who was then the public prosecutor, was in league with the police to pervert the courts of justice.

Public opinion formed the police guilty of wilful murder. Consequently, any verdict returned by any court which did not match that was a cover-up. To this day Irish schoolchildren are told that the juries were "packed", though not one Irishman in a million today could tell you who sat on juries, who selected them, or how many peremptory challenges a defendant was allowed. Facts should never be allowed to interfere with simple beliefs.

The point in this is that the Anglo-Irish Agreement was signed expressly to give Ulster Catholics confidence in the administration of justice. But that bubble of confidence is burst every time a verdict in the courts does not coincide with popular prejudice.

The Anglo-Irish Agreement, like the 1974 Council of Ireland, was based on a false premise, that it was possible to satisfy prejudiced minds. Some years ago I wrote to the Northern Ireland Office suggesting, instead of a formal signed agreement which would only raise hopes and fears, that officers of the rank of inspector from the Gardaí and the RUC should be seconded to work in each others' police stations.

With regard to blind prejudice perhaps only the Catholic Church can help. It can start teaching the whole history of Ireland in the schools, north and south, not just selected parts.

Yours sincerely,
DES KEENAN,
129 Bluebird Walk,
Chalk Hill Road,
Wembley Park, Middlesex.

Universities' future

From Professor the Earl Russell

Sir, Lord Annan's reply to Sir Mark Richmond and to me (February 3) illustrates the success of the Government's strategy of divide and rule. That University College London (in its federal context) is and should remain one of our elite institutions is a proposition on which we will not disagree.

However, Lord Annan is perhaps unaware how much the funding position has worsened in the short time since he went out of office. Vice-chancellors have recently quoted figures showing that universities have lost 33 per cent of their real income since 1979. If ministers do not accept these figures, they should really change their accountants.

Under these circumstances, Lord Annan is asking only for the privilege Polyphemus granted to Odysseus, of being the last to see to Odysseus's advantage is one of the things which mark the *Odyssey* as a work of fiction.

What worries us about the current Education Reform Bill is the unholy trinity of sharply reduced funding, abolition of tenure, and ministerial powers which, at the least, are more sharply defined. We wait with some anxiety to discover what will happen next time Sir Keith Joseph's successor discovers there are "Marxists" in the Open University.

Since our concern is academic and not political, we wait with equal anxiety to discover what would happen if a future minister out of Mr Ken Livingstone's stable should discover that there were "racists" in the "University of Bradford".

The abortion debate

From Ms Alison Davis

Sir, The letter from R. H. Lindebaum (February 3) about abortion reform seems to assume that eugenic abortion is an undisputed good, and that even pro-life people would support it if they really knew the facts.

Anyone who is truly pro-life is opposed to abortion because it kills living human beings. This fact is not amenable to negotiation. Thus, whether or not abnormalities can be detected by 17 weeks is academic. If David Alton is right in saying that

Before Mr Robert Jackson (article, January 23) replies that this violence is too essential to be taken seriously, may I remind your readers that I am the son of a scholar of some distinction who twice lost an academic job for non-academic reasons?
Yours faithfully,
RUSSELL,
43 Stratford Road, NW6.
February 3.

From Dr Edmund Marshall
Sir, In his article defending the provisions of the Education Reform Bill relating to universities, Robert Jackson indicates that the proposed Universities Funding Council will have a statutory basis and be alone responsible for allocating public money to universities. That being so, the UFC will itself be subject to parliamentary scrutiny through the Public Accounts Committee and the Select Committee on Education, Science and Arts.

No further provision is needed for accountability for this use of public money. Parliament, rather than the secretary of state, is well able to act as guardian of the public purse. The secretary of state needs "no power of last resort" for this purpose.

The Bill's provisions enabling him to attach "conditions" to UFC funds and to issue "directions" to the council are either redundant or are designed to allow the secretary of state to interfere in choosing which academic disciplines, which teaching courses, or which research projects should use those funds. Fears for the future of academic freedom are well grounded.

Yours truly,
EDMUND MARSHALL,
14 Belgrave Road,
Walsfield, West Yorkshire.

abortion after 18 weeks is wrong, those who support him only if handicap is excluded are admitting that it is acceptable to kill on the grounds of handicap alone.

Speaking as someone with a detectable, abortable condition (I have spina bifida) I find this attitude disturbing, divisive and as morally and ethically repugnant to the disabled as apartheid is to black people.

Yours faithfully,
ALISON DAVIS,
35 Stileham Bank,
Milborne St Andrew,
Blandford Forum, Dorset.
February 3.

Multiple sentences

From the Dean Emeritus of Manchester

Sir, Am I alone in regretting what seems to be the increasing practice by the judiciary of handing down more than one life sentence for multiple crimes? It is logically impossible to give more than one life sentence, unless of course the judge in question has authoritative information about reincarnation! The practice indeed smacks

more of impotent anger than cool judgement.

The question of the detention of a prisoner could easily be covered by the other prevalent practice of making a condition that the guilty person "should serve at least X years" or "should never be released".

Yours faithfully,
ALFRED JOWETT,
37 Stone Delf,
Fulwood,
Sheffield, South Yorkshire.

Drumming up Drake

From the Rector of Farley Chamberlayne

Sir, Your article, "Sir Francis fights again" (January 30) suggests to me that another skirmish is brewing in the Armada anniversary crossfire.

St Mary the Virgin at Monken Hadley claims to have "England's only surviving Armada brazier". That is a dangerous claim, seeking to be challenged! Preserved in the vestry of St John's, Farley Chamberlayne, is a beacon brazier believed to predate the Armada and in perfect condition. It was supplied and maintained by the St John family, lords of the manor of Farley Chamberlayne for some 200 years from the beginning of the sixteenth century.

Curbs on technology sales to Russia

From Dr John Dwyer

Sir, Your report (January 30) that at the instigation of the United States more stringent controls are to be imposed on the transfer of technology from Europe to the Soviet Union might make one think that such restrictions are necessary to prevent the advance of European commerce from enabling the Soviet Union to develop more advanced weapons.

This implication is simplistic: it fails to consider how technology transfer occurs in practice, as determined by the economic policy of each country receiving American technology.

Since 1982 there has been a progressive increase in the number of American corporations regularly supplying the Soviet Union with embargoed products, including computers and advanced scientific equipment having military applications.

Often the prices of the items supplied were considerably higher than prices within the EEC, a fact which might plausibly account for the frequent attempts by Soviet industry to obtain such products from European sources.

A suspicion that the introduction of further trade restrictions cannot be designed entirely to prevent European commerce from endangering the defence of Nato is reinforced by the refusal of the American Department of Commerce to disclose the names of those corporations now trading with the Soviet Union. This refusal was justified on the grounds that it was necessary to protect business from competitors.

Inevitably some of the recent initiatives in Anglo-Soviet trade will be paralysed by these increasingly complex restrictions, which occur at a particularly unfortunate time.

In 1987 a policy to encourage joint enterprises and greater co-operation in science and engineering was notified by the Soviet Presidium, and that opportunity, if pursued selectively, would not only have mutual benefits but would also ensure a growth in trade despite changes in Soviet industrial policy preventing increases in direct imports.

Violence on TV

From Sir Martin Le Quesne

Sir, Surely, in his report on the Independent Broadcasting Authority research into what viewers think of violence on television (details, early editions, January 29), your Media Editor omitted to comment on the most remarkable of all the statistics thrown up, namely that 21 per cent of viewers (nearly seven million) disagreed with the statement that "There is already enough violence in real life". A further 24 per cent neither agreed nor disagreed.

In other words, only just over half the viewers are getting what they regard as an adequate ration of violence in their daily life.

Is it not a corollary of this that the other half are suffering deprivation on a scale which calls for further urgent research? I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
MARTIN LE QUESNE,
Beau Desert,
St Saviour, Jersey, CL

Cost of motoring

From the Chief Executive of BP Oil

Sir, Daniel Ward's article on petrol pricing (January 21) paints a realistic picture of the relative spread of petrol prices in the country. Perhaps I could make the point, though, that the actual prices quoted have for some weeks now been overtaken by events. Petrol prices are, as ever, responding to economic facts and are coming down. Since before Christmas, four-star prices have been below 170p a gallon in all urban areas.

Of greater concern to me, however, are the points raised by Mr Smart in his letter of January 12 on the price of unleaded petrol. Mr Smart comments that the price of unleaded petrol does not always follow that of leaded petrol when petrol prices generally are coming down as is the case at the moment.

I can only speak for my own company, but the policy is clear. The price to the retailer of both leaded and unleaded fuel changes simultaneously. It is unfortunately the case at present that sales of unleaded petrol are very low. With large amounts tied up in slow-moving stock we do have understanding for those retailers who wait for their next delivery before adjusting the price. At a time of rapid price movements this time lag can indeed result in the situation described by Mr Smart.

It is the hope of the UK oil industry that a duty incentive on unleaded fuel, together with a programme of public education will remove the cause of the problem, which is lack of demand. Yours faithfully,
D. W. KENDALL,
Chief Executive,
BP Oil,
BP House,
Victoria Street, SW1.

Crock of gold

From Miss Katharine Slade

Sir, As I looked out of my window this afternoon, I noticed that a large and splendid rainbow ended, somewhat appropriately, on the roof of the new Inland Revenue building.
Yours faithfully,
KATHARINE SLADE,
27 Westmoreland Terrace, SW1.
February 2.

Technology transfer is inherent within the existing economic framework in Europe: once advances applicable to defence systems are declassified, advertised and sold to profit the manufacturer, no scheme to restrict the final user can possibly succeed.

There are already a number of well-established routes through "interface" countries whereby embargoed technology is supplied through ostensibly reputable companies which make use of the business secrecy of some European countries to protect their owners from investigation by authorities in America or the EEC.

Indeed the last paragraph of your report reveals the fallacy inherent in such schemes: the agreement to prohibit the transfer of new technology was obtained only by removing the restrictions on the items already reaching the Soviet Union.

Yours faithfully,
J. DREWE,
148 Willfield Way,
Hamstead Garden Suburb, NW11.
February 2.

ON THIS DAY

FEBRUARY 8 1878

An extract from one of the scores of lengthy articles The Times carried on the Russo-Turkish war of 1877-78

THE FLIGHT TO STAMBOUL

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

TCBATALDJA, Jan. 27.

The town of Tchebataldja lies between two ridges of hills, the lofty at its back, the other low, just making the view of the town, all excepting the tips of the minarets, from the railway which winds its wanton course over the plain below. ... Tonight this little town shelters as ad-looking a throng as, bearing the name of an army, was perhaps ever seen ...

The weary march of nine days from Kirk-Kiliss ("the 40 churches") was ended, and the 28 battalions had at last been brought into a place of rest and safety; but what a piteous spectacle, to me all the more piteous because these are the comrades of brighter days ...

The troops, tramping all the daylight through in rain and deep mud, have bivouacked at night in the open, as wet themselves as the soaked ground they lay on, often without any means of making a fire, and all the time with rations of biscuit only, and that in scanty supply. Wear, wet, and mud have reduced the men's clothing to a condition inconceivably deplorable. Their charcoals, or sandals of raw hide, are all worn out, and their feet are in a terrible state. They have torn strips from their other garments, both inner and outer, to make swaths, but that has afforded little relief, and as they came limping along, legs ending in a bundle of rags, I could see but very few able to put an unfeeling foot to the ground. At least 15,000 of these wretched, foot-sore men, exhausted with cold, wet, hunger, and fatigue, have come to here, where there is scarcely even standing room for such a multitude, as the dense packing of the streets shows. The townspeople were in alarm, but without cause; for with all the confusion attendant on an influx so disproportionate to means of accommodation, not the least disorder has ensued. Beyond the pulling down of a few wooden fences and the appropriation of the old beams and rafters of ruined tenements for firewood, there was no disposition shown to make free with the goods of the townsfolk. Coffee-houses, shops, and bakeries were closed, but no one tried to force the issue, the one desire seemed to be for rest and warmth. The men stood patiently leaning against the wall until the streets were cleared of artillery and transport train, baggage and ammunition ponies, and waggon laden with wick. There were as many as could be accommodated told off in parties to the mosques, the Greek school-house (the largest building in the town) and such other places as could be found, while the great majority sat down resigned to the pitiless rain on either side of the streets, and grew cheerful as their bivouac fires, lighted all down the middle, gave out a cheerful blaze. It was certainly not comfort, but the sense of labours ended and dangers eluded, of rest and safety, which contented the poor fellows. The town Greeks made a great disturbance about the bivouac fires in the streets ... but the gentry Pasha was inaccessible after sundown, and the military authority refused to interfere. I could speak with Mehmet Ali Pasha for a few minutes only, as he was in a great hurry to get on to Constantinople, whether he was summoned, he looked in face most ardent and anxious. I scarcely knew him when he came in all wet and travel-stained; but when the outer rind of drenched attire was peeled off him the cheery little man came out as spick-and-span as ever in his general's uniform, and a cup of hot coffee restored his habitual brightness ...



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE February 6: The Duchess of York arrived at Heathrow Airport, London, in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight this afternoon from France.

Miss Helen Hughes and Lieutenant-Colonel Sean O'Dwyer were in attendance.

The Princess Royal, Patron, Scottish Rugby Union, and Captain Mark Phillips this afternoon attended the Scotland v France match at Murrayfield, Edinburgh.

Her Royal Highness and Captain Mark Phillips travelled in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight.

Mrs Andrew Feilden was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE February 6: The Princess of Wales arrived at Heathrow Airport, London, this morning in a VC10 aircraft of the Royal Air Force from Thailand.

Miss Anne Beckwith-Smith, Sir John Riddell, Lt. Commander Richard Aylard, RN, Mr Philip Mackie and Surgeon-Commander Ian Jenkins, RN, were in attendance.

The Prince of Wales was represented by the Lord Lyon at the Memorial Service for the Very Reverend Sydney Evans which was held in Salisbury Cathedral this morning.

Birthdays today

Professor Averil Cameron, 48; Tunku Abdul Rahman, 88; Prime Minister of Malaysia, 85; Lord Cameron, 88; Mr Orian Ellis, 60; Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Martin Gilliat, 75; Marshal of the RAF, Sir John Grandy, 75; Admiral of the Fleet Lord Hill-Norton, 73; Lady (Geoffrey) Howe, former deputy chairman, Equal Opportunities Commission, 56; Rabbi Dr Sir Immanuel Jakobovits (Jill), 67; Chief Rabbi, 67; Mrs Diana Ladas, former headmistress, Heathfield School, 75; Professor Ann Lambton, former professor of Persian, 76; Mr Murray Lawrence, chairman, Lloyd's, 63; Mr Jack Lemon, actor, 63; Sir Kenneth Maddocks, former governor, Fiji, 81; Sir Philip Magnus-Alloft, author, 82; Lord O'Brien of Lothbury, 80; Lord Rayne, 70; Sir Richard Southern, former president, St John's College, Oxford, 76.

Today's royal engagements

The Princess Royal, President of the British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, will visit the British Wool Marketing Board, Oak Mills, Stanton Road, Clayton, Bradford, at 10.30, and as President of the British Olympic Association, will attend a luncheon given by the local group of the British Olympic Appeal at the Queen's Hotel, Leeds, at noon. As Patron of the R.A.F. Trust, she will visit Wakefield Prison at 2.00. She will attend a dinner given by the Sports Aid Foundation and the Sports Aid Trust at the Mansion House at 7.15.

Princess Alexandra will attend a reception at the British Academy at 4.15 for the presentation of an honorary fellowship of the British School at Rome to Mr A.G. Sheppard Fidler.

Reception

India League Mr Michael Foot, MP, President of the India League, and Mr Julius Silverman, chairman, received the guests at a reception held yesterday evening at the Indian YMCA to bid farewell to the Indian High Commissioner and Shrimati Alexander.

Dinner

Garrick Club Mr Donald Sinden, trustee, presided at a dinner held last night at the Garrick Club to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the birth of Sir Henry Irving (February 6). Mr Richard Bebb played the surviving cylinder recordings of his voice and Mr Richard Brier proposed the toast to the immortal memory.

Appointments

Latest appointments include: Miss M. B. McV. MacMurray, QC, to be a Circuit Judge on the North Eastern Circuit.

Mr E. J. Prosser, QC, to be a Circuit Judge on the Wales and Chester Circuit.

Air Vice-Marshal N. H. Mills to be Deputy Surgeon General (Research and Training), in succession to Surgeon Rear Admiral C. J. Milton-Thompson, and Director General of RAF Medical Services, in succession to Air Vice-Marshal F. C. Hurrell, as from December 30, 1987.

Clifford Longley When the state takes on the mantle of Christianity

Buried deep within the tension between church and state in Britain is an ideological question concerning the very concept of the British nation.

The crisis in the health service, the quarrel between the churches and the Government over the Education Bill, and the recent history of strain between the Church of England and the Conservative Government, all point to a disagreement which is fundamentally about the role of the state in the life of the nation.

Are they the same thing, are they separate, or are they even opposed?

The prevailing ideology, taken for granted by the majority as obviously true, is that they are identical. The state is "everybody".

Thus, in the case of the welfare system, if everybody has a moral duty to care for the less fortunate, then that is automatically what the state has to do on everybody's behalf. If it is deemed desirable that certain industries and services should be owned by everybody, then it is the state that takes them on.

Because everybody has a right to free education, health care, sickness and unemployment insurance, and other blessings of civilization, the state has to provide them. So the state has come to represent in its entirety the humanitarian principle in public life.

It is the common table round which mankind, or at least the British part of it, gathers to sup; it is the embodiment of the ideal of the nation as one big happy family. It is so all-pervasive an ideology it is difficult to get a handle on, which may explain why the Government, which is instinctively suspicious of it, is in practice confused and contradictory in its responses.

Yet it is a relatively recent idea. It is, in fact, a monumental and paradoxical triumph for an ideology of the state which owes a great deal more to the Church of England than any other factor. But because that church's presence within the nation appears to have become weak, marginal, and irrelevant, it is not easy to see it as a triumph at all.

With the creation of the welfare state

all the ideals of social responsibility implicit in humane post-Enlightenment "national" Christianity were at last put into action. What had hitherto been seen as a personal moral and religious duty towards one's neighbour became a collective obligation, the discharge of which the state was to organize.

So what made Christianity seem suddenly irrelevant? Was its success in seeing its social ideals adopted by the nation as a whole? Part of what had hitherto been the distinct function of the church and of religion had been taken over by the state, leaving the church to specialize in what was left, the so-called spiritual dimension.

In so doing, however, the integration at the heart of the Judeo-Christian tradition of the duty to God and the duty to one's neighbour was undone. The "duty to God" was still the church's business, but the "duty to neighbour" became the state's. And Christianity suffered a profound disorientation.

Before the welfare state, the churches had been by far the greatest source of public welfare provision, both through their supply of official facilities, such as church schools, and through their moral teaching which provided the inspiration for private charitable initiatives. The creation of the welfare state brought a vast improvement in the availability and quality of these facilities, but at the same time it secularized them so that the churches no longer had anything like the same direct involvement.

Even the label on the political theory which brought about this enhanced role of the state was secular: it described itself as socialist rather than as Christian. But this was never a true dichotomy; the Labour Government which enacted it may indeed have owed more to Methodism than to Marxism; and the idea of the state which was unconsciously created by it owed most to Anglicanism.

It was the concept of the church and nation as one indivisible moral and spiritual entity. And it continues to exist today, in the proprietorial attitude the Church of England still has towards the welfare state. So the present

Government's mistake in its handling of the Church of England is in not recognizing that claim as legitimate and historically sound, but instead in regarding the church as interfering in things which do not concern it.

It is only to be expected that such an attitude would be resented by the church. This political and ideological theory of the state extends far further than the social welfare and educational field. It invests the state itself with religious qualities, seen explicitly in the common headship of the national church and the state itself in the one person of the Sovereign, and implicitly in the mystical quality of British, and most specifically English, national sentiment.

It is Englishness-and-Anglicanism as one concept, and it is a creed which does not require its members to go anywhere near a church as such, for the whole nation is felt to be hallowed ground, and at the same time one vast charitable society for the benefit of its members.

It is also, incidentally, an alienating creed for those who cannot accept its premises or share its history. In particular, it marginalizes Catholics, Jews, Blacks and Asians. The difficulties this presents for the Church of England itself are enormous, mystifying, and probably insoluble.

"It" cannot disengage from the state, because "it" does not exist as a separate entity. What does exist is a separate thing called "religion", which has been largely privatized, and which is that institutional activity which was left when the key moral dimension of Christianity was hived off to the welfare state.

The ideology known as Thatcherism, which aims at the transfer of moral responsibility from the welfare state to individuals, ignores at its peril the whole historic process whereby this responsibility was passed to the state in the first place. And if the responsibility is really to be passed back to where it came from, it would not be passed to individuals at all but to religious institutions and charitable bodies with religious motivation.

OBITUARY MARGHANITA LASKI

Formidable critic of contemporary culture

Marghanita Laski, who died on February 6, at the age of 72, made a notable contribution to English cultural life in many different spheres over a period of more than 40 years.

She was born on October 24, 1915, the daughter of Neville J. Laski, QC, and was educated at Ladybarn House School, Manchester, and Somerville College, Oxford.

At 22 she married John Howard, the founder of the Cresset Press, and they had a son and a daughter.



moved by this, and must ask your indulgence on it."

She was very seldom called on to make this kind of apology where matters of understanding were concerned.

Between 1944 and the early 1950s she published six novels, including *Little Boy Lost*, which was later made into a film, starring Bette Crosby.

It was really, however, as a critic and broadcaster that she became best known to the public. There were studies of Jane Austen, George Eliot and Kipling. She was a contributor to *The Brains Trust* and *Any Questions* and, most notably, to *The Critics* and its successor, *Critics Forum*.

She held strong views and defended them tenaciously. The voice and delivery were idiosyncratic - measured, orderly and with impressive reserves of menace. The sentences were calmly constructed and consisted of the right words in the right order.

Marghanita Laski was very formidable in debate. She also shone in more structured forms of broadcasting, most recently in an outstanding series on Kipling which Helen Fry produced on Radio 4 five years ago.

Council. Her views about the value of state subsidy to the arts sometimes startled those of her colleagues who regarded her as a fully paid-up member of the liberal consensus. When she announced that modern novels were "usually unreadable", one could be sure that it was the view of someone who had grited her teeth through a good many of them.

Her love of the English language found its fullest expression in the quite extraordinary contribution she made over many years to Dr Robert Burchfield's four volume supplement to the *Oxford English Dictionary*. For the first volume alone, Miss Laski and three others contributed between them something like a quarter of a million quotations.

Miss Laski loved France and most things French. Jewish by birth, and intensely rational, she nevertheless felt strong affinities with many manifestations of religious faith, from the cadences of the Old Testament in the King James translation to the musical splendours of a Choral Evensong on Radio 3.

It would have been a bold man who made the comparison to her face in her lifetime, but the person in fiction she most resembled - except that she never seemed to age - was the redoubtable Princess Lorikoff in Saki's short story, "Reginald in Russia".

The imperiousness of Miss Laski's character is well illustrated by Saki's account of Princess Lorikoff's own deportment, on a notable occasion anyone else might have been awed by. "When she died and led by Millionaire Street for Heaven she addressed St Peter in her formal staccato French: 'Je suis la Princesse Lorikoff. Il me donne grand plaisir à faire votre connaissance. Je vous en prie me présenter au Bon Dieu.' St Peter made the desired introduction, and the Princess addressed Le Bon Dieu: 'Je suis la Princesse Lorikoff. Il me donne grand plaisir à faire votre connaissance. On a souvent parlé de vous à l'église de la rue Miliou'."

Likewise, it was not in Miss Laski's nature to be cowed, even by the most momentous occurrences.

Marghanita Laski is survived by her husband and her son and daughter.

She also acted as a proof reader, and the Preface to the final volume published two years ago begins with the sentence: "When Miss Marghanita Laski read the galley proofs of the extraordinarily complex entry for 'Off' in Volume Three of this supplement, she remarked 'I am almost completely flummoxed'."

In the middle 1970s she served on the Amman Committee on the Future of Broadcasting, and quickly established herself as one of its most influential members.

She gave a great deal of her time and energies to the Arts

Council. Her views about the value of state subsidy to the arts sometimes startled those of her colleagues who regarded her as a fully paid-up member of the liberal consensus. When she announced that modern novels were "usually unreadable", one could be sure that it was the view of someone who had grited her teeth through a good many of them.

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DOÑA CARMEN POLO de FRANCO

Carmen Polo de Franco, the Señora de Meirás, widow of the Spanish dictator, General Franco, died on February 6, in Madrid, at the age of 87.

Doña Carmen, as critics and admirers alike called the tall and good-looking woman, who for almost 40 years was constantly at the side of the all-powerful Caudillo, was a force in her own right, yet remained the typical self-effacing Roman Catholic wife required of that backward-looking regime.

fluence on Franco came from her one-time confessor and from the "Conversations" of Franco's cousin and fellow general published after the dictator's death.

Carmen Polo Martínez Valdes was born in 1900 into an Oviedo upper middle-class family, wealthy by provincial standards.

tastes living in the Pardo, especially in jewellery and haute couture.

In 1972 when her eldest grand-daughter was married to Alfonso of Borbon, cousin of the present Spanish King, Doña Carmen appeared to have engineered a dynastic marriage. This threat to her husband's plans for the eventual succession did not, however, succeed.

Her father, however, was of liberal political views and against military men. Thus when Carmen first met Major Franco in 1917 her family dismissed him as a soldier without fortune and were utterly opposed to their marriage.

Historians have yet to establish with certainty what was the extent, if any, of her role in her husband's political life. It seems she only intervened directly once, in 1973, after the assassination of Carrero Blanco, when her husband's powers were already seriously diminished. On that occasion she persuaded him to nominate the unimaginative but utterly faithful Señor Carlos Arias as the last Prime Minister of the authoritarian regime.

But throughout the long Franco years Doña Carmen exercised a considerable sway in society, particularly influencing millions of Spanish women by the way she dressed, by her unswerving religious practice, and by her outward subordination to her husband.

Hints of her discreet influence on Franco came from her one-time confessor and from the "Conversations" of Franco's cousin and fellow general published after the dictator's death.

But after the accession, on Franco's death in 1975, things went unexpectedly smoothly. The new King gave her the title of Señora (Lady) of Meirás, after the country home in her husband's native Galicia.

Over the last twelve years of her life Doña Carmen enjoyed a respect that she had hardly known in the days of her husband's power. She completely withdrew from the public stage, thus easing the difficult task of transition to democracy, undertaken by the Spanish monarch. She also withdrew admirably a succession of blows to her family. These included divorce and separation of relatives and the deaths of grandchildren.



Natasha Barat (left), Baboushka Xenia, Alexander Suscenko and Dimitri Sacidakhem lighting candles yesterday.

Worshippers face eviction

Refugees and their families who make up the congregation at the Russian Orthodox Church in Exile fear they will lose their only church in London under plans by a Church of England supported charitable trust to demolish it and build luxury flats.

Slavonic masses are said in a Gothic chapel attached to the church hall belonging to the Anglican parish of St Stephen's in Emperor's Gate, Kensington.

The Rev Christopher Colven, the vicar, said: "I think the Russians have been very naughty about this. The lease ran out years ago. Mrs Sophia Goodman, of the Russian church, claimed that the Anglicans had said they would try to find them another church."

Photograph: Ros Drinkwater

Forthcoming marriages

- Mr J.C. Austen and Miss K.A. Hammond. The engagement is announced between Jeremy, youngest son of Mr and Mrs G.R. Austen, of Appledore, Kent, and Kate, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs B.J. Hammond, of Sopworth, Wiltshire.
- Mr S. Christie-Miller and Miss E.A. Crawford. The engagement is announced between Stephen, only son of Mr and Mrs David Christie-Miller, of Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, and Elizabeth Anne, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Corran Crawford, of Dalkeith, Perth, Western Australia.
- Mr J.M.A. Cooper and Miss S.K. Agate. The engagement is announced between Jonathan, eldest son of Mr J.B. Cooper, of Marlborough, Wiltshire, and Mrs K. Wren, of Crawley, Hampshire, and Sophie, elder daughter of Major J.P. Agate, of Milton Lilbourne, Wiltshire, and Mrs D.L. Pearce, of Wokingham, Berkshire.
- Mr C.T.W. Dinesen and Miss E.R. Mather. The engagement is announced between Christian Tore Wilhelm, son of Mr Tore Dinesen, of Farum, Denmark, and Mrs Therese Mather, of Hoersholm, Denmark, and Emily Rose, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs R.C.P. Mayhew, of Hyde Park Gate, London.
- Mr K.A. Gottlieb and Miss N.A. Crompton. The engagement is announced between Kim, son of Mrs Sonia Gottlieb and the late Lieutenant-Commander Eli Gottlieb, of Hendon, London, and Nicky, only daughter of Major Nigel Crompton and the late Mrs Joy Crompton, of Kensington, London.
- Mr D.M. Hampton and Miss M.S. Bridges. The engagement is announced between David, son of Mr and Mrs R.F. Hampton, of Leatherhead, Surrey, and Melinda, daughter of Mr and Mrs E.E. Bridges, of Coldeharbour, Surrey.
- Mr T.H. Harker and Miss K.A. Laman. The engagement is announced between Thomas, son of Mr and Mrs T.E.D. Harker, of Ascot, Berkshire, and Katherine, daughter of Mr D.C. Laman and the late Mrs S.T. Inman, of Cranleigh, Surrey.
- Mr G.A. Hawes and Miss H.E. Triggs. The engagement is announced between Graham, son of Mr and Mrs M.B. Hawes, of Brentwood, Essex, and Helen, daughter of Mr and Mrs B.S. Triggs, of Hutton.
- Mr T. Johnson and Miss J.F. Turner. The engagement is announced between Tim, younger son of Mr and Mrs F.M. Johnson, of Sandown, Cambridgeshire, and Jane Frances, only daughter of the late Mr H.A. (Bertie) Turner and Mrs H.M. Turner, of Halesworth, Suffolk.
- Mr J. Love and Miss S. Pankhurst. The engagement is announced between Jonathan, son of Colonel and Mrs Stephen Love, of Brighthelm, Devon, and Sheila (Ezra), daughter of Mr Kenneth Pankhurst, of Bookham, Surrey, and Mrs Jean Pankhurst, of Byfleet, Surrey.
- Mr J.T. Prowse and Miss M.C. Cudiffe. The engagement is announced between Jolyon, only son of Mr and Mrs Terence Prowse, of Mon Abri, Les Rocquettes, St Peter Port, Guernsey, and Maryclare, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Cudiffe, of Gile Green, Brinkworth, Wiltshire.
- Mr C.P. Ralph and Miss B.C. Thomas. The engagement is announced between Charles, elder son of Mr and Mrs Philip Ralph, of Kingston Hill, Surrey, and Belinda, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Thomas, of Neston, Cheshire.
- Mr E.A. Smith and Miss V.J. Wilcox. The engagement is announced between Tony Smith, of Hamilton Road, Reading, and Virginia Wilcox (née Hoften), of Dove Cottage, Westcott, Dorset.
- Mr R.N. Sugarmann and Miss L.A. Warner. The engagement is announced between Richard Neil, son of Mr and Mrs I. Sugarmann, of Stanmore, Middlesex, and Louise Claire Amelia, daughter of Mr and Mrs Stan Warner, of Southampton, Hampshire.
- Mr J.G. Wallis and Miss C.M. Holmes. The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr and Mrs George Wallis, of Throckley, Northumberland, and Carolyn, daughter of the late Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs Nigel Holmes and step-daughter of Mrs Margaret Holmes, of Mornings Heath, Sussex.
- Mr A.A.S. Whamond and Miss S.L. Bolton. The engagement is announced between Alexander Anderson Stuart, only son of Mrs Noel Whamond, of Waukmill House, Newton Stewart, Wigtownshire, and the late Captain W.H.S. Whamond, and Sara Elizabeth, youngest daughter of Group Captain D. Bolton, RAF (ret), and Mrs D. Bolton, of 25, St Dionis Road, London, SW6.

MR PETER WYKE SMITH

Mr Peter Wyke Smith, who died on February 15, at the age of 67, was Director of Engineering and Technical Services at the National Bus Company from 1975 to 1984.

As such he oversaw engineering innovations within NBC at a time when the company was introducing modernized bus and coach services, notably its National Express Rapide network.

Wyke Smith began in the bus industry as a trainee with Midland Red after the war, and by 1972 had progressed to become general manager of Crossville Motor Services, one of the largest components of the newly-established National Bus Company.

In 1975 he moved to NBC's group headquarters where he was responsible for changing the direction of engineering in the company to prepare for a new style of bus and coach operation.

SIR DYMOCK WATSON

Vice-Admiral Sir Dymock Watson, KCB, CBE, died on February 3, at the age of 83. During the Second World War he served as Fleet Torpedo Officer in the Mediterranean, and later as Staff Officer (Plans) in that theatre.

In the 1950s he commanded the aircraft carrier, *Illustrrious*, and was successively, Flag Officer Flotillas, Mediterranean, Fourth Sea Lord, and Commander-in-Chief, South Atlantic and South America. He retired in 1960.

Mr P. V. Doyle, who died in Dublin on February 6, aged 65, was chairman of Bord Fáilte (the Irish Tourist Board), and Ireland's leading hotelier.

Wilfred Getz, QC, who died on January 18, had a successful commercial practice in the Temple, before leaving the Bar to become a director of N. M. Rothschild & Sons.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Samuel Butler, poet, author of *Hufling*, baptised, Strensham, Worcestershire, 1612; Robert Burton, scholar, Lindley, Leicestershire, 1577; Daniel Bernoulli, mathematician, Groningen, Netherlands, 1700; John Ruskin, London, 1819; Henry Walter Bates, naturalist and explorer, Leicester, 1825; Jules Verne, novelist, Nantes, 1828; Dmitri Mendeleev, chemist, Tobolsk, Russia, 1834; Martin Buber, philosopher, Vienna, 1878; Gene Edit, Evans, London, 1888; King Vidor, film director, Galveston, Texas, 1894; James Dean, film actor, Marian, Indiana, 1931.

DEATHS: Mary, Queen of Scots, executed, Fotheringhay Castle, Northamptonshire, 1587; Peter the Great, Tsar and Emperor of Russia 1682-1725; St Petersburg (Leningrad), 1725; R. M. Ballantyne, novelist, Rome, 1894; Peter Kropotkin, geographer and anarchist, Dmitrov, Russia, 1921; William Bateson, biologist and geneticist, Merton, Surrey, 1926.

Nature notes

Skylarks feast by moonlight

Greenfinches are calling with a long, sharp sound in the twilight; they will soon be in full song. Skylarks are singing over the meadows where lawns are feeding among the growing grass.

Some lappings are already heading back for Holland and Germany, but many remain; they often feed by moonlight, since in the day time they may be rubbed by gulls.

Collared doves are singing with a ringing triple note on telegraph poles and church spires. Pheasants are crowing loudly; they stretch themselves up with their long tail resting on the ground, and flap their wings as they cry out.

There is a glint of silver on the dark, mallow twigs where the catkins are opening. On road-



The lapping.

sides, the first yellow flowers of colts-foot are appearing, without any sign of leaves; these will come later and grow large after the flowers are dead.

Winter hellgramites is a common garden escape by streams and in waste places; its lilac flowers smell of vanilla, and early bees are buzzing around them. In damp and sheltered spots on the northern mountainside, an Alpine flower is opening: the purple saxifrage, with its trailing, dark green leaves and five-pointed stars.

DJM

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THE ARTS

TELEVISION

Border Czechs

Crossing borders, however benign, is a disturbing business. You know exactly where you are but you risk losing your own bearings — the certainties of culture, language and relationships that form your personal geography. That is why you become so vulnerable to dubious guides and the comfort of strangers.

Border (BBC2), the latest Screen Two film, was a tale, reputedly true, which added a wicked irony to the anxiety of border-crossing. Not only were its frontiers very hostile, they turned out not to be borders at all. Set in 1952 in Stalinist Czechoslovakia, the story by Jarí Stanislav, which was adapted for the screen by Tim Rose Price, centred on three young friends who, with another group of people dissatisfied with the regime, break through what they think is the frontier fence to West Germany. Their "escape", however, had been arranged by the Czech authorities, who used agents posing as Americans to trick the unfortunate "exiles" into giving information about "enemies of the people".

Though in the main well scripted, acted and directed, *Border* suffered from its surprising failure to work out a consistent approach to the essential ingredient in such a story of national trickery — accent. The characters were not allowed to speak Czech, but all of them should have been made to speak English either in a Czech or an English accent. However, the cast, which included expatriate Czechs and the Hungarian refugee Catherine Schell, offered everything from sombre Anglo-Saxon vowels to sexy, East European metropolitan aspirates. This linguistic confusion undermined the contrast between the Czechs and the "Americans" and perhaps led the writer and director to give their game away early.

The comfort of Alan Whicker as a guide in *Whicker's World* (BBC1) is that he does make everything his world. Nothing he confronts us with can really disorientate us as he is always on hand, a Whickerism at the ready, resolute in his bespectacled urbanity; even when, as last night, he crossed a border even he found disturbingly unfamiliar, as he sat among 6,000 gays at Sydney's Sledge Ball.

Andrew Hislop

Waltzing with Peter the Great

DANCE IN PARIS

Gianni Versace's designs are but one striking feature of the first production by Maurice Béjart's Ballet Lausanne, as John Percival reports from Paris

A new ballet production with dazzling costumes by a leading fashion designer — haven't we read something about that on all the fashion pages lately? However, I am not thinking of Christian Lacroix's drawings, for American Ballet Theatre's revival of *Gaieté Parisienne*, lavishly hyped before the premiere, but of Gianni Versace's for a new show by Maurice Béjart, already proving themselves on stage in Paris at the Palais des Congrès.

This is the first creation of the Béjart Ballet Lausanne, which is the new designation adopted for his former Ballet of the 20th Century, on its move from Brussels. In Paris the company is into a season running until February 21 with two programmes. There is an evening featuring the well tried *Sacré du Printemps* and *Bolero*, and another that is entirely new, including Béjart's gloss on his own *Bolero*.

This begins with the final bars of the Ravel score; the curtains open on Jorge Donn, collapsed on the big table where we are to suppose that he has just performed his temperature-raising gyrations.

But this time one of the supporting crowd of men (Kevin Haigen) is so inflamed that he stays behind for a murderously erotic duet to some more Ravel, *La Valse*, which can never have sounded so agitated.

To balance that there is an equally impassioned modern dress version of Debussy's *Prelude à l'après-midi d'un faune* in which the nymph's removal of a veil is paralleled by the girl's taking off one of her ballet shoes.

The main item on this bill is *Souvenir de Leningrad*, based not only on Béjart's visit there last summer for a collaboration between his company and the Kirov, but on his ideas of it as a city important in the history of ballet and politics. So Peter the Great and Lenin

both feature in the cast list — and who but Béjart would end the ballet with them waltzing together under one of those ballroom globes which scatter fragments of light?

If it comes to that, who else would have put his own alter ego into the ballet, in the shape of the autobiographical character Bim from his version of *Gaieté Parisienne*, and, on the strength of their both bailing from Marseilles, have let him dance classes? Béjart has also cordially although posthumously loaned some passages from *The Nutcracker* and *The Sleeping Beauty* (ably danced by Katarzyna Gdaniec) which fit agreeably into his mosaic patterns.

Tchaikovsky provides even

more of the score, and also finds a large place in the action, being embodied by two dancers representing respectively the man and his music, accompanied besides by the Countess von Meck, another woman named La Patibulaire, and a young man who is his ideal love.

Some episodes, for instance the actor Eiji Mihara balancing at alarming angles in ski boots, perhaps mean more to the choreographer than they will to the ordinary spectator, and the general pattern is allusive rather than coherent, but Béjart could doubtless resort that memory works that way. At about 100 minutes, without an interval, he risks outstaying his welcome but goes on producing new surprises and delights whenever *cannai* sets in.

Versace's contribution is a great help too. A lot of the costumes are black and white, but he makes crucial use of colour. Sometimes there is just a bright flash of contrast, such as Lenin's red gloves and mask against a sober suit. At other times the stage suddenly floods with colour for an entrance of big Russian dolls or a mass entry by the *corps de*



Lenin looks on: Xavier Fera and Lynn Charles, in Maurice Béjart's *Souvenir de Leningrad*

ballet in colours and kaleidoscopic patterns that combine pop art and Soviet constructivism.

As often with Béjart, the chief pleasure comes from the quality of performance. With

one curiously miscast exception, the various roles are nicely judged, and the massed effects are beautifully controlled. And, once again, Béjart has a new discovery to show off among his established dancers. This time it is a tousled-haired lad named Xavier Fera, who plays Bim with bright virtuosity, irrepressible ebullience, and a personality out of all proportion to his modest height.

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Andrew Billen meets Mark Shivas, returning to the BBC as the new head of Drama

An independent approach



Mark Shivas: Looking for a soap but not in a hurry to reveal his plans

Mark Shivas, the new head of BBC Drama, visited his office at Television Centre for the first time last week, but he will not be working there full time until August. He prudently prefers to discover what the department has already made before announcing its output for the next three years. He is, nonetheless, happy to let it be known that he is already looking for a new soap opera for BBC 1.

Aged 49, Shivas has a pretty fair record in the soap business himself. Though his career has taken him nowhere near the Crossroads Motel, critics were quick to dub his Channel 4 serial, *What If It's Raining?*, a yuppie soap. Ten years ago there was *Telford's Change*, with Hannah Gordon, Keith Barron and Peter Barkworth.

"People even claimed *Glittering* Prizes was a soap opera — although

somebody was kind enough to remark that at least you would have to call it *Imperial Leather*," Shivas says.

Shivas left Oxford University in the early 1960s with a third in law and a resolve never to practise. Instead he started a still extant cinema magazine, *Movio*. In 1966 he landed a job at Granada reading scripts and contracts. After a spell as a trainee director on the local news magazine he graduated to *All Our Yesterdays*, *What the Papers Say* and *Cinema*, where he succeeded Mike Scott as presenter.

"After six months Granada decided they wanted to get Michael Parkinson back in the fold and I was fired. It was probably the best thing that ever happened to me, because I got a call from Gerald Savory, Head of Plays at the BBC. I thought he was going to offer me a

job as a script editor. Instead he asked me to produce for BBC 2. I had never produced a play in my life."

His first project was *The Six Wives of Henry VIII*. The 90-minute plays were shot in three days each and he says he cannot watch them today without noticing the shadows of sound booms over the actors' foreheads. The shadows did not matter; the series won all the drama prizes of the year and was seen in 60 countries, even being networked on commercial television in America.

Having produced plays about a thalidomide victim and the Craig and Bentley murder case, he is an advocate of docu-drama, the hybrid that came under scrutiny with *The Monocled Mutineer*. "If you close up drama based on actuality, you close up a very rich field."

In another sense, though, he is the Government's ideal candidate for a top job in the corporation at a time when it is being told to introduce greater commercial discipline. A movie addict who produced Alan Bennett's *A Private Function*, he wants the BBC to follow Channel 4 in making films for theatrical release, which he believes would tempt famous filmmakers back to the BBC.

In the decade since leaving the BBC, he has worked as an independent. *Telford's Change*, made by his own company, was one of the first independently produced drama series ever shown by the BBC. With the BBC under instruction to contract out 25 per cent of its output, he believes the virtues of independents can include speed and flexibility.

Fixing on fear

RADIO

Ghost stories produce in me all the symptoms of addiction. I drink them in, achieve the necessary high and then, in almost every case, lapse rapidly into a post-narcotic low from which only another shot of the same can rescue me. Thus, halfway through *Fear On 4* (Sundays, repeating Wednesdays), I am already reaching out for next week's episode seven.

Not every one of these stories so far has followed this familiar pattern. William and Mary (January 10) was a fairly typical Roald Dahl mixture of inventiveness faced with the vitriol of ordinary human nastiness: wife keeps deceased husband's eyes and brain alive so that she can torment him without reprisal. Nick Warburton's *Mist: Love's* (February 28), splendidly acted by Prunella Scales and Nigel Anthony, explored what happens when a music fanatic, bent on experiencing the ultimate performance, decides to pursue to a murderous conclusion the old concert programme admonition about the unstified coughing of one marring the enjoyment of the many. This was an excellent black joke.

The rest — among them a version of W W Jacobs' classic *The Monkey's Paw* — have all been in the nature of a fix. They have drawn on the stereotype of hidden forces, irredeemably malevolent, whose one aim is to provoke terror in, and if possible encompass the destruction of, any human unlucky enough to cross their path. The onslaught is motiveless and therefore, after the *frisson* has worn off, not particularly interesting. Hence the empty aftermath.

Why assume a motiveless malevolence in the first place? Could it be that something very like it is all too easily observable simply by the exercise of a little introspection? Externalizing it onto the supernatural may be one way of holding it up for inspection or, much more likely, of setting it at an innocuous distance.

Alternatively, why invoke the supernatural when other people all around give uninhibited displays of it will all

the time? Conceivably because even the most self-confident do sometimes suspect that the barbarians around us in fact offer a reflection of the personal barbarian we have so far managed to keep under wraps.

Again, the supernatural puts things at a distance and perhaps the absence of it explains why parts of last week's *Fife On 4* (Tuesdays, repeating Wednesdays) were such an uncomfortable experience. With the excellent sense of timing this programme normally displays, Max Easterman had been out and about, talking to people about current attitudes to homosexuality, in the light of Clause 28. It was not necessary to believe that homosexuality should be promoted in order to find the attitudes of those who assert the opposite often profoundly unpleasant. Worst were some of the youngest: a group of adolescent boys, unashamed gay-bashers, from whom, had he met them, Genghis Khan would either have drawn promising recruits or, more probably, turned and fled. But you can't be too surprised at them for, as Radio Clyde's *Elephant Dances*, which I reviewed last week, made all too plain, they were only adding a bit of boyish unbridled brutality to some very widespread attitudes. It seems to me equally disquieting to notice that the more civilized defenders of family and what they call Christian morality do not seem to realise that what they are promoting gives reign to a demon every bit as destructive as anything they hope to suppress.

Merely there is not a hint of all this beastliness in *Timpani's England* (Radio 4, Sundays, repeating Fridays). Over his many years as chairman of *Any Questions?*, John Timpani made a point of enlivening some of the odder features of the districts he visited. These talks are a distillation of his discoveries. Did you know that outside Grasmere in the Lake District there is an old-style AA Box which is a Grade II Listed Building? Thank God, old dot, kindly England bumbles on in parallel with the land of re-awakened barbarism.

David Wade

CONCERT

Philharmonia / Marriner
Royal Festival Hall

When critics compliment Sir Neville Marriner on his "safe pair of hands", or remark on his complete professionalism, one can be fairly confident that a large "however" lurks ahead. The inference is usually that safety equates with timidity, that being professional also means being mechanical.

This is to misunderstand, and to underestimate, Marriner's craft. Orwell wrote that good prose should be like a window-pane, and Marriner clearly believes a conductor should be, too: a direct, scrupulous channel to the composer's manuscript, undistorted as far as possible by interpretative quirkiness.

THEATRE

Suite in Two Keys
Palace Theatre, Watford

Cowards are popping up in all corners of the kingdom this winter. Noël Coward's that is. At Watford this double bill presents the first opportunity since 1966 to see two of the last plays he wrote, a suite originally in three keys and staged in repertoire with a third play, the best of them, the full length *A Song at Twilight*.

Shadows of the Evening gives us the weepy side of love as an agnostic (Francis Matthews) reacts to the news that he is dying of cancer. He and the two women in his life (Caroline Blakiston, Isla Blair) tell one another how difficult the knowledge is to bear; each

This performance of Dvorak's Eighth Symphony was a quintessential demonstration: flawlessly balanced, crisply delineated in rhythm, and sensitively phrased. The Philharmonia's now rather young-looking fiddle section, which had earlier seemed short of tonal bloom in Verdi's *I Vespri Siciliani* overture, responded enthusiastically to Marriner's stylish nuances here, and the brass were in brilliant form.

Dimbity Sitkovetsky, the soloist in Brahms's Violin Concerto, has a few habits that totter on the brink of becoming caricatures: a penchant for swoopy slithers up the string, sudden changes of timbre, and a way of leaning heavily on the opening note of each phrase. But beneath these lay a cogent interpretation, and where Sitkovetsky took a more genteel view there was some beautiful time as well.

Richard Morrison

endeavours to adapt to his extinction with nobility and courage.

It is a poignant theme prevented from stirring the heart because of Coward's insistence on making the characters articulate their emotions so precisely.

Caroline Blakiston's still resentful movements when she first enters the room reveal more effectively the pain of the abandoned wife than almost all the phrases Coward imagines for her.

Jolly music precedes the second play, *Come Into the Garden Maud*, to tell us that more cheerful things are ahead.

Francis Matthews plays with a genial, throwaway charm. Matthew Francis (not to be confused with Francis Matthews) directs decently enough, but neither of the plays has worn well.

Jeremy Kingston

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MONDAY PAGE

My father, the luckiest President

This week a commission of historians will deliver their verdict on the wartime conduct of Kurt Waldheim. For his most ardent supporter, his daughter Christa, there can be only one possible outcome. Caroline Phillips reports



Family ties: during his New York years Kurt Waldheim would take daughter Christa everywhere with him

"If I opened a paper tomorrow and read that my father had killed somebody, it wouldn't throw me." The same woman later says: "It's sometimes hard to keep your sanity and stop yourself going crazy." She is Dr Christa Karas-Waldheim, a 28-year-old law graduate and daughter of Dr Kurt Waldheim. The youngest of his three children by 11 years, she is the closest to her father and the most politically motivated.

Her relationship with her father is, she admits rather awkwardly, "abnormal". She talks about him in romantic terms: "I always felt he understood me, never felt I couldn't reach out. If he's busy we can see each other at midnight." When she married last June - her husband is Austria's most prominent young conservative politician - her father was not displaced. "I added his name to my married one because I feel very close to both of them." In Karas-Waldheim's eyes, "Papi" as she calls him, can do no wrong.

When her father decided to run for the Austrian Presidency in 1985 for the conservative People's Party, after being rejected for a third term as Secretary-General of the United Nations, she left her job at the Austrian Academy of Science to campaign for him. "He cares about people and wants to help them. He was the best man for the job." Single-handedly and supported exclusively by donations, she enlisted thousands into her "people's movement". She would sleep four hours a night and speak up to eight times a day in different parts of the country, to crowds of sometimes 5,000 people. "I had never addressed more than 10 people before. It was terrifying."

Then, in March 1986, three months before her father was eventually elected, what she will only term the "smear campaign" started. The World Jewish Congress (WJC) accused her father of

being a member of the Nazi "brownshirts" and later serving in a *Wehrmacht* unit where he must have been aware of the transporting of more than 40,000 Greek Jews to death camps during the Second World War.

His daughter says that the WJC's "evidence" came from socialist manipulators and that the allegations were "unfair weapons and lies" employed by a frightened opposition.

Talking volubly and maintaining close eye-contact throughout, she constantly refers to her father as a victim and scapegoat. She was, she says, as astonished as her father by his opponents' tactics.

The WJC claimed that Waldheim's autobiography, *In the Eye of the Storm*, published in 1985, was factually incorrect, particularly in its omission of any reference to military service after 1941. He did see further military service - the issue is where and in what capacity. His daughter says that the only stories she had heard about the war years were things like her sister - who is 14 years her elder - being

born on a mountain top when her mother fled after the Russian invasion of Vienna.

And her father? "He was just a poor soldier in uniform obeying orders. It wasn't a nice time. He didn't like to remember it."

Last autumn the Austrian government published "The White Book" to rebut the WJC allegations and explain Waldheim's "missing years". During them, Waldheim claims, he served, as a translator, as an officer in German intelligence, continued his legal studies then worked as an interpreter and collector of military information. "That was a very boring time," his daughter says. "I can't imagine that anyone will want to read it."

She believes that she established

such a close relationship with her father through being the youngest in the family. "I was spoilt, being the baby. My mother is my best girlfriend." She grew up in New York during her father's terms as ambassador and at the United Nations. (Lyce educated, she now speaks "Berlitz American" with a strong Austrian accent.)

Rather than isolate her from his hectic life, Waldheim would take her to cocktail and dinner parties, luncheons and on trips. Despite

his unremarkable career in the UN - he is best remembered for his arid and ponderous style - Karas-Waldheim says: "I saw that he was respected by the whole world. I was so proud of him." She was a trained gold and silversmith; but when Waldheim told her that she should study law, she did.

Karas-Waldheim cannot admit even the possibility that her father could be guilty. "He never gave me any reason not to trust him or to think he was lying." The

greatest proof for her, if she needed it, was that her father managed to keep "cool and smiling" throughout his presidential campaign. "It's very tough to constantly defend yourself over something that you didn't do. And difficult to lie, or lie on someone's behalf, for a long time. If his conscience were not 1,000 per cent clean, he would have cracked."

I ask whether it is not every daughter's duty to defend her father? "It's not out of duty," she

says. "It is the only thing you can do when you love someone who is being attacked and treated unjustly." Her mother, she says, is still "madly in love" with the man she met when they were both studying for law degrees. "After 43 years of marriage she is still extremely in love with my father and she wants to help him."

Has she ever thought, in her darkest moments, that her father might have been associated with murderers? She is as taken aback at the word as she is when I mention Klaus Barbie - "Barbie was guilty, so should be punished, even after all these years." Then "No," she says in answer to the question about her father. Even if "they" find something, it will, she says, be a forgery or invention.

Hypothetically, if he were guilty, she would defend him. "Being a daughter, the most important thing would be to defend your father. My main concern would be to keep his spirits lifted." When I ask her what she will tell her children about their grandfather, she is

ruffled. The fact that lies can get out of hand, is the gist of her reply.

Karas-Waldheim regards the WJC, who sowed the seeds of doubt about her father's military career, as a "bunch of radicals", a small group of "buddies" interested in spreading hatred and yearning to achieve a high profile as Nazi hunters. "I don't think they could give a damn about my father: they just want to defend their good reputation. Of course the WJC have approached me. I don't want to have anything to do with them."

She doesn't think that the children of those Jews who were killed have the right to persecute her father. "Particularly since he has proved that he didn't do anything wrong." Jews, she adds, were not the only victims in the war. "But the children of these

victims are making an innocent victim of my father."

Waldheim's supposed misfortunes initially produced a rallying of support and waves of anti-semitism in Austria. Karas-Waldheim says she is not anti-semitic. She says she has Jewish friends - "as does my father". She receives crank telephone calls and hate mail (her friends are amused at the rapidity with which she changes her telephone number). Has her father received threats? "I don't know if he tells me everything," she says in a rare concession.

Waldheim remains on the Watchlist, barred from the US. "Who cares?" she says, with a great deal of care. "I wish he weren't. But I am sure they will soon take him off and apologize." The fact that Austria is isolated - his controversial visit to the Pope last June and his trip to Jordan broke a year-long diplomatic quarantine - is not something that she recognizes. "He didn't become President to see the world," she says sitting in the government office in which she works out the logistics of Austria joining the EEC.

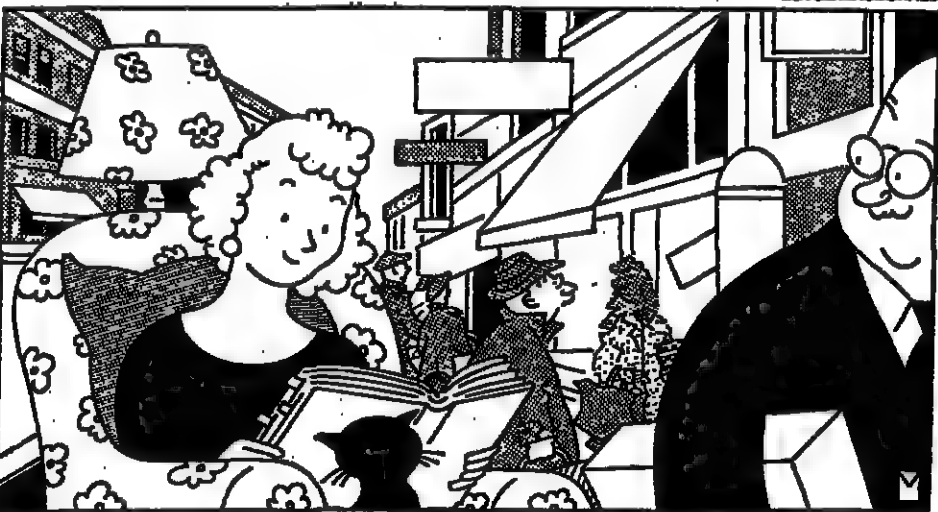
People, she adds, were not outraged by his audience with the Pope. "They were proud. They flew a few people in to be outraged." Whether or not Waldheim receives the Pope on the papal visit to Austria this June depends on the findings of Hans Kurz and the other historians investigating the president's wartime activities.

There is no question, according to his daughter, that Waldheim should step down. Wherever she goes with him, she says, they hear cheering. "He is the luckiest president. There has never been one that the Austrians have shown their approval of so much."

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Future Shop - will we be left at home?

Shopping catalogues are being sold as the chic accessory to the busy lifestyle, and we are told that we will soon forgo the hurly-burly of the high street for the convenience of shopping by phone or screen. But the armchair revolution is no substitute for squeezing tomatoes



W e already have the technology to order clothes and curries, holidays and theatre tickets, even stocks and shares, from the ease of our armchairs. So when futurologists predict the end of the traditional shop counter by the year 2000, the real question is not how shocking will Future Shopping be, but how satisfactory?

Can a glossy catalogue or even a screen image ever hope to deliver the goods when it comes to the small but essential details? Will the consumer prefer no-fuss fast delivery to the benefits of seeing the goods, touching them or trying them on?

The launch of the Next Directory last month highlighted the fact that catalogues have become aspirational rather than practical, making use of top photographers and exotic locations. Home shopping was originally targeted at housebound women wanting to try on pantie-girdles in privacy. Now it has shed its middle-aged image. The motherly agents are being replaced by a sophisticated electronic network intended to appeal to those more at home with plastic money and interactive systems.

On Valentine's Day, Jeff Banks's mould-breaking By-mail catalogue, one of the first to look more like a glossy magazine and less like a telephone directory, goes transatlantic, through the US mail-order giant Sears, while in Britain a million copies of the new season's catalogue will be distributed. And on Wednesday the Spring/Summer Kit Collection - four catalogues from Great Universal Stores, owner of Kays catalogues - will be launched. "At the moment there are about 20 million people in Britain buying by post," Banks says. It is the remaining 36 million who are the target for the next stage of Future Shop.

The Next Directory prom-

ised "mail order" not by mail but by telephone and courier; goods delivered to your door within 48 hours instead of 28 days (Kit's publicity claims that GUS pioneered a national telephone-ordering system giving 48-hour delivery on 95 per cent of orders). Such service would seem to be a major advance for the working wardrobe, but the talk of the town is how Next's chief, George Davies, has been having problems both with delivery and stock control.

Not so, says Davies. "Ninety-eight per cent of the clothing sent out by courier has

been there within 48 hours. Already, 30 per cent of our initial customers have been re-ordering, and they wouldn't do that if they weren't satisfied. Last Thursday alone we took £379,000 worth of orders." Asked about his vision of Future Shop in the year 2000, Davies becomes uncharacteristically coy. "I have a strong vision of where we're going - but I usually only tell people after I get there."

Banks talks excitedly of "new technology freeing us from the confines of place and time, so that we no longer

have to go into a crowded city centre in order to shop". And he predicts that, "those best equipped to cater to the future are the big mail-order companies. They have the technology."

Some mail-order companies are already experimenting with photovideo - pictures and text transmitted via telephone cables to specially adapted TV sets so that customers can see items together with their descriptions on screen, and order them directly at the push of a button.

Peter Young, director of Viewtel 202, the world's first electronic shopping newspaper, and a pioneer in home shopping through the television screen via British Telecom's Prestel system, sees videotex as vital to his vision of Future Shop. "Kays has a complete home-shopping system set up and ready to run with more than 35,000 lines," he says.

But while videotex could bring stores such as Marks & Spencer into the home, it will not do so until what Young calls "the problem of the lack of a large enough user base" is solved. In other words, there are not enough consumers who have the technology to use such a system and big companies are reluctant to invest (at the moment some 50,000 homes across Britain are hooked up to Prestel, paying a quarterly subscription fee of £6.50, plus telephone charges).

The market cannot expand until the range of goods and services on offer make it irresistible to more people.

Some say it never will. Professor John Dawson, of Stirling University's Institute for Retail Studies, says: "Catalogue companies in America experimented with putting their wares on screen and it was disastrous. It was all too much effort to tune in to: people like to flip through catalogues and browse."

And despite an annual turnover of £250,000 a year, Viewtel terminated its supermarket shopping, provided to West Midlands homes by Carrefour, last June after two years. "Customers were ordering fresh meats and vegetables as well as tinned and packet foods," Young says to silence the cynics who believe we will always insist on personally squeezing the tomatoes. He hopes to see the service re-established on a more economic footing in the future.

I may be British Telecom who will give electronic shopping the boost it seems to need. Although they are coy about admitting as much, industry insiders say that BT is considering methods of distributing interactive units to up to two million homes.

A BT spokesman said: "We will not be doing anything like the French Minitel project, where three million terminals were given away, but we are looking at ways of widening the network - possibly through partial sponsorship by database providers."

In America, interactive cable television has given rise to a Home Shopping Network featuring slick video salesmen and even on-screen auctions. Cable is still in its experimental stages here. With cable television, the cable takes over the role of the telephone line in providing the interactive link. But cable has been primarily a picture medium. A happy marriage of computer graphics, text and pictures would be the ideal for the future.

Telaction, a Canadian-based company, is masterminding a tele-shopping project in Chicago which allows participants to see clips of the play or the video they are interested in before buying.

In Britain, Banks is keen to explore the possibility of presenting special offers on screen via conventional television, maybe even through his *Clothes Show*, and the forthcoming *Clothes Show* magazine might be able to offer support for this sort of experiment.

"We have to appreciate the capabilities available to us," says Banks. "But I would hate to see a world without shops, and hate not to be able to go out browsing."

The consensus seems to be that Future Shop will merely free us of the drudgery of juggling tins of cat food and Euro-sized boxes of soap powder around so that we can squeeze the tomatoes, if we must, unencumbered.

Victoria McKee

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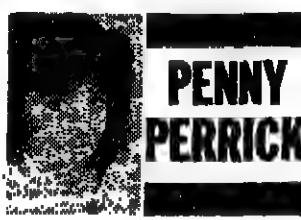
Press on regardless

Paul Johnson, writing in *The Spectator*, says that nowadays, when a man reaches 30 he begins to think about buying a Corby trouser-press.

I find this profoundly depressing, a knife-edged sign of the times, but what we live now, a time when there is no place for the man who leaves his trousers on the floor to get that overnight concertina look that I much prefer to a perfect vertical crease. Men whose trousers spend the night being ironed-out often look as if they have slept in their Corby as well - not a sign of interesting little wrinkles enliven their bland faces.

What, I wonder, do men think of buying for their 20th birthday in this nose-to-the-grindstone era? Probably not a second-hand American football jacket with a great big blanket-stitched initial appliqué on the back. Not roller-skates or a Walkman or a bow tie that lights up and whirs round. For the time has come to put away childish things, even if you are hardly more than a child. I expect 20-year-olds now think very seriously about opening a monthly account at Austin Reed.

And what about the 40-year-old? What can possibly be left for him since, by the time he



enters the fifth decade, he must rarely have acquired all those little artifacts that make the executive lifestyle run on oiled wheels - the Filofax, the calculator that fits into it, the suit-carrier that fits over the briefcase, and, possibly, the hernia that results from having to carry so many bits and pieces around.

I am glad to say that so far I haven't noticed many women going through this sort of premature-maturity crisis. I suppose I shall consider myself to be an authorized grow-up when I buy my first pair of support tights, but I think I can possibly manage without them until I am 67.

I seem to be in a fit of permanently childish rebellion. When I go shopping for shoes with my daughter - an interesting experience for all concerned since we both have such large feet that sometimes the only thing in the shop that will fit us are the boxes - she

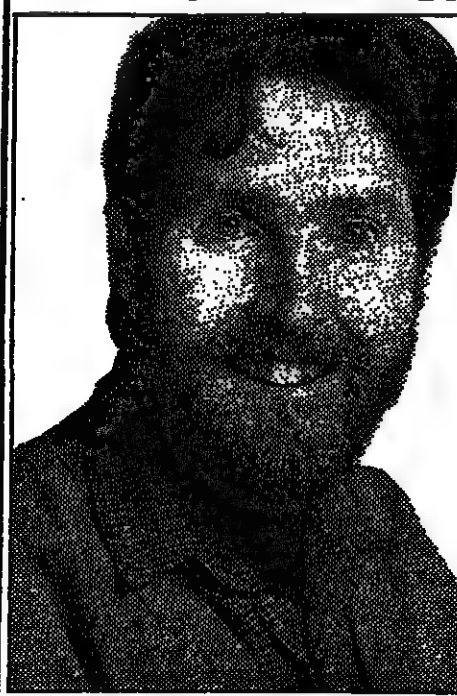
looks for something sensible and wedged in black patent while I ponder over fake leopard-skin pumps with spidery plastic heels. Very practical for the office.

I have marked the decades of my life by having my ears pierced, buying a piece of sculpture and (I think this was when I was going to be 30 and trying for a bit of sophistication) paying 60p for a huge black ring with paste diamonds in which has remained my favourite piece of jewellery. I would not thank anyone who suggested that now I am getting on a bit, I ought to be turning my mind to these little plastic book-on-shelves that provide extra space in the fridge.

As the birthdays pile up, I think it is a misconception to buy yourself things that supposedly make life easier - the trouser-press, the cordless telephone, the fitted sheets, since however many conveniences you acquire, life is bound to get more difficult anyway.

For my next birthday I am saving up for a silver hip-flask and a dear little porcelain pillbox with "Valium" inscribed in a delicate script on the lid.

WHY THE REVEREND PETER GOW BECAME A COMPUTER HACK.



"Because I lost the ability to talk, as well as to walk, after my accident, some of my closest friends had trouble realising I hadn't lost my marbles too!"

Fortunately, they have computers here which are specially programmed for disabled people. Once I'd written an article for the Parish Magazine on one, people realised I was still all there after all.

I attend the day hospital here now, where I have speech and occupational therapy as well as physiotherapy. Apart from the marvellous help I get, this enables my wife Jan and the children to lead as normal a life as possible too, and this is important to me. In fact, life at home is so normal now, my three-year-old says, "My Daddy goes to work every day and does his exercises." That's what I call normal!

Peter Gow suffered brain damage after a severe asthma attack. When he first arrived as an in-patient he'd lost the use of all limbs and the power of speech. He can now walk and talk - slowly - and is making an excellent recovery.

He's just one example of the 300 severely disabled people in our care who need us to

help them improve the quality of their own lives. The Royal Hospital and Home, Putney is outside the health service and is dependent on donations, covenants and legacies from people like you.

Please write to: Director of Appeals, The Royal Hospital and Home, Putney, Dept. TTG, West Hill, London SW15 3SW.

THE ROYAL HOSPITAL AND HOME, PUTNEY
Helping people who want to help themselves.
PATRONS HM THE QUEEN AND HM THE QUEEN MOTHER



**Compiled by Peter Dear
and Peter Davalle**

VARIATIONS

[illegible]

10.35 Extra Time 11.20 240
2 - The Agency 12.40mm

DOWNDOWN

WYTH WALES As HTV Wales excepts 12.00pm
7.00 Wales At 10.30s Survival of
the Fittest 1.30s 12.00s Light Touch
of Scotland

SCOTTISH As London excepts
12.00pm
Gardening Time 12.25-1.00 News
1.30 Film Time Machine 3.00 Pat Stubbs
4.00 The Big Bang 6.00 News
Special 5.15 Tales of Crime 3.20-4.00
Crested Auk 5.00 Scotland Today
5.15-5.30 News 5.30-6.00 News
(News and Cr) 10.30 Scottish Women
11.45 Personal Best Black H 12.00s
News 12.00s 12.00s Twilight Zone 12.00s
Downdown.

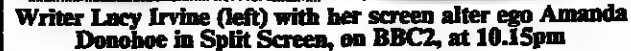
TSW As London excepts 12.00pm
12.30pm Country Practices
15.50-1.00 News 1.30-3.00 Fictions
3.00-3.30 News 3.30-4.00 News 6.00
Today 6.00 News and Cr
10.30-11.00 News and Cr
11.45 Hammer House of Horror: The
Nightmare 12.00s 12.00s
Downdown.

TVS As London excepts 12.00pm
12.30pm Antiques 12.50 News
1.00s 1.30 News 1.30-2.00 News
2.00-2.30 News 2.30-3.00 Chain
Reaction 3.00-3.30 News 3.30-4.00
Night View Got: The Road 3.00-3.30 Chain
Reaction 3.30-4.00 News 4.00-4.30
America's Top Ten 4.15-4.30 TVS Sport
Country 4.40-5.00 S & P 5.00 Company,
Downdown.

TYNE TELES As London excepts 12.00pm
1.00 News 1.30-2.00 Film Dan
Waters 2.00-2.30 News 2.30-3.00
Northern Line 10.30 Film, Killing of an
Ambassador 12.00s 12.00s
Downdown.

WULSTER As London
excepts 12.00pm
12.30-1.00 News 1.30-3.00 News
3.00-3.30 News 3.30-4.00 News
3.40-4.00 Sons and Daughters 6.00-
6.30 News 6.30-7.00 News 7.00-7.30
Sons and Daughters 7.30-8.00 News
8.00-8.30 News 8.30-9.00 News 9.00-9.30
Motor Show 9.30-10.00 News 10.00-10.30
10.30s Newsbreak, Downdown.

WYRKSHIRE As London excepts
12.00pm
12.30-1.00 News 1.30-2.00 News
2.00-2.30 News 2.30-3.00 News
3.00-3.30 News 3.30-4.00 News
3.40-4.00 News 4.00-4.30 News
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5.30-6.00 News 6.00-6.30 News
6.30-7.00 News 7.00-7.30 News
7.30-8.00 News 8.00-8.30 News
8.30-9.00 News 9.00-9.30 News
9.30-10.00 News 10.00-10.30 News
10.30-11



● I have to confess that until I saw *Split Screen* (BBC2, 10.15pm) I had no idea what a

mace-spray was. Since such knowledge is crucial to an understanding of the programme, and since a recent poll suggests that my ignorance may be widely shared, I must offer a definition. A mace-spray is an aerosol, on sale in French supermarkets but illegal in Britain, which emits a disabling gas. Squirted into the face of a would-be mugger or rapist, it can cause temporary blindness. Tonight's *Spill Screen* debate about "defence weapons" should be carried. Putting the case in favour is the *Castaway* authoress Lucy Irvine whose eventful life has included being raped at the age of 16. Her argument (dramatized by her cinema alter ego, Amanda Donohoe) is that if a strange man breaks into your bedroom in the middle of the night, you do

wants your telly, your body or your life. Whatever the answer, your instinct is to fight back. But as the law stands, if you strike first you can be charged with assault. Putting the contrary view, the American journalist Ima Kurtz contends that offensive self-defence is a recipe for increasing violence. Mace-sprays horrify her and she argues that the best form of defence is "common sense, intuition and a few basic skills". Since one of the recommended skills is a knee to the groin, this might mean that you should manhandle Ms Kurtz calls on a psychiatrist to say that carrying a weapon might frighten your attacker into worse violence, and a Buddhist who advocates relying on the goodness of humanity. As always, the programme leaves you to decide.

● Two historical plays on Radio 4 today. Roderick Graham's *Melford's Axe* 9.22.13. **RADIO CHOICE**

"Golden Years" and "Arthur Miller's The Golden Years" (7.45pm), both say to us, in effect, "This isn't how and why things really happened all those years ago, only how and why they *might* have happened." We can, therefore, safely put our history books. But not our minds. What we have to decide is whether, given that the central characters in both plays were not invented, the invented philosophical arguments Graham and Miller have put into their mouths ring true. Both plays pass the test, Miller's by a mile, Graham's by a metre or two. Except to say that it concerns the confrontation between Montezuma and Cortez and the resulting conflict of ideologies, I don't intend to say anything about *The Golden Years* because I wrote about it when it received its world premiere on Radio 3 last November. Ideological conflict is also at the heart of *Melford's Axe*, the difference here being that the cockpit is the conscience of the man (true identity unknown, but recreated by Graham as an



Struan Rodger: R4, 3.00pm
Army farrier with an axe that performed yeoman service at the Battle of Naseby) who is deputed to chop off Charles's head, does it willingly because he sees it as a just fate for a tyrant, and goes on to enjoy rich rewards. Graham makes some interesting points about a greater tyranny — that of tainted prosperity. As the tormented regicide, Struan Rodger keeps his own head admirably.

Peter Davalle



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Radio 4

about musical performances
2.45 *Orfeo ed Euridice*: first broadcast of Jonann Josef Fux's one-act opera, sung in Italian. Charles Medlam (cello) conducts London Baroque. Cast: Michael Chance (*Orpheus*), Nancy Argenta (*Eurydice*), Mark Tucker, Nigel Rogers, Lynn Dawson and Nicole Jenkins
5.00 *Mainly for Pleasure*: recorded music selection, presented by Edward

DOWN

7.05 **Third Ear:** Julien Spelding interviews Alison Britton about her abstract ceramics

7.30 **European Broadcasting Union 20th Birthday Special:** Live from Jerusalem - Israel Radio SO, Jerusalem, under Sergio Comissiona. With Natasha Tadson (piano). Part one: Paul Ben Haim (Psalms), Rachmaninov (Rhapsody on a theme of Paganini)

and

two, Schoenberg
orchestration of the Brahms
Piano Quartet No 1 in G
minor

9.15 Reollections of Henry
James (2) – Famous
player the American writer
Ezra Wharton who records
the impressions of James
in his novel *The String Quartet*

9.35 The Chamber Quartet play
the No 3, and Beethoven's
No 1 in G, Op No 3,
the Rasmussen

10.40 Can a Horse Laugh?
Robert Pickups plays
the short story by Robert Muls,
in the translation by David
Heald

10.45 Michael Davidovich: EGO With
Ensemble with The King
and Julian Farrall (clarinets)
play the Graham
Sullivan Concertant of the
Konzertstück in D minor, Op
114 No 2

11.00 Composers of the West:
Bach – Concerto for the
Cantata No 206 (The Hunt
cantata); the Cantata No 18;
the English Suite No 6 in D
Major BWV 811; the
Chorale prelude in G flat
Froude, BWV 611

12.00 News 12.35 Close-down

LW (long wave), (S) Stereo on FM
5:55 Shipping Forecast **6:00**
 News Ending: Weather
6:10 Farming **6:25** Prayer (S)
6:30 Today, Inc **6:30**, **7:30**,
8:30 News **6:45** **6:55** Business
 News **6:55**, **7:55** **8:25**
7:00 **8:00** News **7:15** **7:25**
 Sport **7:45** Thought for the
 Day
8:35 The Week on 4: programme
 trailers, presented by
 Harriet Cass
8:45 Leaving Towards England:
 Cline James reads six
 chapters from his new book
9:05 The Man in the Brown
 Paper Bag (the final
 instalment can be heard
 next Monday morning) **9:57**
 Weather; Travel
10:00 News bulletin
10:05 Start the Week: Russell
 Clark with guests (S)
10:09 News; Money Box
 presented by Louise Botting (S)
10:30 Morning Story: Desiree, by
 Leslie Hawthorn. The reader
 is Geoffrey Bewers
10:45 Daily Service from St
 George's, Brandon Hill,
 Bristol, led by the Rev
 Ernest Ross, With the Choir
 of Bristol Grammar School (S)
11:00 News; Travel: Down Your
 Way: Reader 1 DJ John Peel
 presents a weekly feature (S)
11:50 Poetry Pleased presented by
 Kevin Crossley-Holland. The
 readers: Caroline John and
 Geoffrey Bewers
12:00 News; You and Yours:
 presented by Susan Rae
 and weekly feature (S)
12:25 The Archers: a play by
 Raymond Chandler,
 dramatised by Bill Morrison,
 in three parts, with Ed
 Sagar with Philip Partridge
 (final part) (P) **12:55**
 Weather
1:00 The World at One
1:40 The Archers **1:55** Shipping
 Forecast
2:00 News; Woman's Hour:
 a feature on the music
 Mozart wrote for women in
 mind; children's stories;
 and two elderly
 correspondents - Joyce
 Broder and Daisy Borne.
 Nigel Anthony reads
 episode one of Marjorie
 Quenton's Corporal Jack,
 the story of a crossbred
 retriever dog in the First
 World War
3:00 News; Melodrama's Axix: play
 by Patricia Graham, about
 the man who wrote
 Charles I. Starring Susan
 ...

Rodger and Sara Kestelman's
4.30 The I (see Choice)
Kaleidoscope: A twist in the Tale. Christopher Goss plays the short story with writers including Penelope Lively, David Golder, Ennals Daily, John Burt Foster, Brian Raymond Carter, and Malcolm Bradbury (P)
P.M. 5.30 Shipping Forecast
5.50 Financial Report
6.30 Hoax: (new series) Johnny Morris, Irene Thomas and Donald Sinden tell stories.
 Audio cassette: you have to spot the lie. The chairman is Tim Brooke-Taylor (T) 7.00 News
7.05 The New Anchors
7.20 The Food Programme: presented by Derek Cooper
7.45 The Golden Years: A New Generation
 With Peter Dinklage, Bill Miller, with Ronald Pickup as Montezuma, Emperor of the Aztecs, and John Gielgud as the Conquistador, Hernando Cortez. Also starring Hannah Gordon and John Wood. The play ran its world premiere on Radio 3 last November (see Choice)
9.45 Kaleidoscope: tonight's edition is introduced by Michael Oliver. The first line-up of topics includes Tom Wolfe's book *The Bonfire of the Vanities* (including an interview with Wolfe himself), the Sharn Experience production of *Nana*, at the Mermiad Theatre in London; and the Opera Group production of *Gaiwan*
10.15 A Book at Bedtime:
Missions of Black Krull, Confidence Man, by Thomas Mann (first of 16 episodes). The reader is Lloyd Gennet
10.30 The World Tonight
11.15 The Today in Parliament
11.45 The World Tonight
P.M. as above excepting 11.00am-
12.00 For Schools. 11.00 Music: Matilda. *Let's Love!* 11.40 The Music Box. VHS For Yourself 1.55-3.00 pm For Schools. 1.55 Listening Corner. 2.05 Plays. 2.20 Science. 2.30-2.45 *My Little Pony*. 2.55 P.M. (continued) 11. The 12.10 and Open University 11.30 Open Forum 11.50 Fielding's Term Notes 12.00-1.10 Schools Night-time. 1.10-1.20 Schools Books: The Heart of Waskier's Trilogy.

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MONDAY FEBRUARY 8 1988

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

STOCK MARKET

(Change on week)
FT 30 Share
1387.1 (-48.6)
FT-SE 100
1737.8 (-53.0)
Bargains
30198 (26287)
USM (Datastream)
145.78 (-2.43)

THE POUND

(Change on week)
US dollar
1.7555 (-0.0145)
W German mark
2.9808 (+0.0143)
Trade-weighted
74.2 (-0.1)

US NOTEBOOK

**Clever Fed
relieves
a creaking
system**
From Maxwell Newton
New York

The Federal Reserve's 1987 policy of unprecedented monetary contraction continues to produce far more violent results than ever imagined by the "consensus" forecasts.

Initial claims for unemployment insurance in January were nearly 20 per cent above the November level. Payroll employment growth in January fell to a negligible 107,000 compared with the monthly average increase of 296,000 in the final six months of 1987.

The dollar continues to rise while interest rates are falling sharply and rapidly — a sure indication of a marked decline in domestic spending.

The weakening domestic economy has allowed the Fed to add substantially to the effective cash resources of the system without going into the market to buy securities.

One analyst who noted this important change in its infancy observed that the central bank had cleverly failed to take back the large seasonal cash injections made between Thanksgiving and Christmas. This has kept the markets — in bonds and currencies — largely unaware of what has been going on.

But the results are stark. The annual growth rate of the monetary base (cash plus banks' reserves) has booted from its fourth-quarter pace of about 7½ per cent a year to more than 16 per cent a year in January.

This has provided some significant relief to the system, creaking somewhat as it is from the effects of feeble retail sales and vastly excessive retail inventories.

The cut in the prime rate to 8½ per cent last Tuesday was no doubt facilitated by the resulting plentiful cash availability, something that has also been increased by weakening loan demands.

Far-sighted foreigners may already see the possibilities of huge gains in the US bond market in 1988. A Japanese who can see a 7½ per cent yield on the US Treasury 30-year bond by year-end (against 8.28 per cent on Friday) and ¥140 to the dollar (against ¥129) could look to a total return of more than 30 per cent between now and December.

The inflation rhetoric and hysteria of 1987 have been swayed by the rising tide of deflation news. Since the beginning of the year, the February gold contract has fallen by 10 per cent to less than \$440 (£251). Commodity price futures have continued to fall.

Virtually all the resulting action in bonds has been in the medium- and long-term areas. Between January 4 and last Friday, the rate on a 90-day Treasury bill fell 16 basis points, while the yield on the 30-year bond fell 62 basis points.

Central bank intervention purchases, which kept T-bill prices up in 1987, have gone. So has the inflation mania that led to a wide-eyed frightened run into the short end last year.

Whether the US economy is now decisively committed to a recession is not clear. However, the pace of change in the currency markets, the bond markets and the labour markets since December indicates something quite powerful is happening.

What is certain is that the glib optimism of November and December, arguing that "October 19 didn't hurt", is rapidly being replaced by growing fear.

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Dee capable of '£300m profit'

Monk says expansion needs time to pay off

By David Brewerton

Dee Corporation is capable of generating pretax profits of £300 million a year from the businesses already in its ownership, Mr Alec Monk, the chairman, said yesterday.

In an interview with *The Times*, Mr Monk disclosed that it would take two or three years for Dee to secure the full returns from the acquisitions of Fine Fare in Britain and Hermans Sporting Goods in the United States.

The profit potential he sees within Dee, which was not linked to any particular period, contrasts sharply with the results forecast for the year to April, when Dee is expecting to turn in profits of £185 million, down from £192 million in the previous year.

Brokers are predicting about £225 million for the year ending in 1989, well short of Dee's previous record of 66 per cent per annum compound growth.

However, it is accepted that if the Hermans and Fine Fare acquisitions do work out as planned, there is considerable potential.

"Just because Hermans had a disastrous year last year, because of the Wall Street crash, it does not mean it will have another disastrous year this year," said Mr Monk.

He maintained he had always made it clear that the massive expansion undertaken by Dee over the last year or so would take time to bring benefits, and that the institutions he visits to canvass support for the company are concerned about the prospects for the next two or three years.

Dee is fighting off a £2 billion takeover bid from Barker & Dobson, the much smaller retail group headed by Mr John Fletcher, the former Asda executive.

Last week, the bidder announced that it would not be increasing its highly leveraged offer, a decision that led to celebrations in the Dee camp.

Mr Monk admitted yesterday that had Barker & Dobson increased its offer, "we might have had to think again". He said the bidder would have to offer more than 200p in cash, plus Barker & Dobson shares, before having a chance of success.

But Mr Monk said: "I wasn't surprised he didn't increase the bid". Barker & Dobson has offered 140p cash plus shares, the entire package worth just under 220p compared with Dee's share price of 181p.

Asked whether he ever feared that the rapid expansion at Dee — financed by share issues that depressed the share price — would leave the group vulnerable, he commented: "I thought we'd be given more credit for what we had done. We said it would take three years, but there was pressure on us immediately."

Mr Monk, who once admitted in an interview he was not a retailer by instinct, but a businessman, says some of the institutions have complained openly about the poor performance of Dee shares last year.

He said he was not giving any undertakings not to make further acquisitions, but it was common sense that he had to demonstrate that the two main purchases were producing the required returns. "We will be judged on whether they make good sense or not."

Barker & Dobson is financing its bid with a £1.6 billion line of credit, to be repaid by selling parts of the Dee business such as Hermans and the supermarkets.

Mr Monk insists he will not sell Hermans himself, and he is confident the rewards will come. He is scornful of the intended sale of the supermarkets. "If you are in grocery, the supermarkets are 30 per cent of your market. Why give that up? Mr Fletcher's arguments are nonsense."

The group is planning to use its extensive property investment portfolio to finance further expansion into specialist retailing, where it can achieve a higher return on capital.

It is understood that the group is in talks with property companies with a view to setting up joint ventures to develop high street sites. Some Woolworth stores have been split already, to provide space for the Superdrug business, where increases of 20 per cent in sales per square foot are being recorded.



Man with a mission: Geoffrey Mulcahy, chief executive, plans important changes in Woolworth's operation

Woolworth's property shake-up

By Our City Staff

Woolworth Holdings is planning to cut back the amount of space devoted to its high street variety store chain by at least 10 per cent, using some of the vacated space for Superdrug and other group outlets.

At the same time, it is working on proposals to cut costs in both the stores and the distribution operations, which could lead to job losses. But substantial expansion is planned for other parts of the group.

Even after the cutbacks, which will bring the space devoted to the Woolworth chain down from 6.7 million sq ft to less than 6 million, it will still operate from twice the floorspace of BHS, its rival in the variety store business, now owned by Storehouse.

The group is planning to use its extensive property investment portfolio to finance further expansion into specialist

retailing, where it can achieve a higher return on capital.

It is understood that the group is in talks with property companies with a view to setting up joint ventures to develop high street sites. Some Woolworth stores have been split already, to provide space for the Superdrug business, where increases of 20 per cent in sales per square foot are being recorded.

Woolworth is already in partnership with Mr Godfrey Bradman's Rosehaugh group through Sheerwater Estates, and has been selling properties on a sale-and-leaseback arrangement. The group is determined that in future deals it will not give away the best end of the bargain, as it is widely reckoned to have done when it sold a strong of high street properties to Mr Gerald Ronson's Heron Corporation.

Mr Geoffrey Mulcahy,

Woolworth chief executive, outlines a "far-reaching programme" of development of the property interests, which amount to nearly £800 million, in a statement about the group's next five years.

It is clear that the board plans further retail acquisitions, and is prepared to sell low-yielding investment property to pay for them, rather than issue additional shares.

The property group is one of three distinct business groupings being set up within Woolworth Holdings, the other two being the high street group and the out-of-town businesses.

Outlining a strategy for the next half-decade, Mr Mulcahy says the guiding principle will be simple: "We are setting out to use our assets more efficiently than ever before."

The board plans to unlock the value of the property

business in three ways: by high street development, out-of-town development, and by working on the existing portfolio. Proposals include the redevelopment of many high street sites, and one or more "largely separate" development vehicles, with their own management teams, will be set up.

The objective is to create a development programme "extending beyond the bounds of our current properties. This year alone we expect a significant contribution from high street development. By the end of 1988, some 1 million sq ft will be developed or be under development at 18 different sites," says Mr Mulcahy.

For the year just ended, Woolworth Holdings is expected to make profits before tax of about £140 million, up from £115 million in 1986-87.

Quilter's apology over unauthorized broker

By Lawrence Lever

Quilter Goodison, the stockbroker, has apologized to the Stock Exchange because the head of its traded options section was allowed to deal for, and give advice to, clients without authorization from the Exchange.

The apology is embarrassing since Sir Nicholas Goodison, the chairman of Quilter, is also chairman of the Exchange.

The broker, Mr Bernard Lynch, aged 24, had dealt in options for Prudential Bache as well as working for LHW Futures, a firm which has had a controversial reputation, before being recruited by Quilter last March.

He had passed American exams for dealing in US options but did not have

clearance from the Stock Exchange to advise clients on British options. Under Stock Exchange rules, brokers who give advice to clients must pass Exchange exams.

Mr Lynch, who did not have an exam exemption which is sometimes granted by the Exchange, blames Quilter for the failure to obtain clearance. Quilter blames him.

He said: "When I was recruited, they never asked me about whether I had exemption. I filled in the form and sent it back to the personnel department. I never heard anything afterwards."

Mr Barry Catchpole, an executive director of Quilter, said yesterday: "He was asked to complete the forms but never returned them."

The Stock Exchange's application form for an exemption must be filled in by the applicant and then signed by a partner or director of the Stock Exchange firm, endorsing the applicant's information.

Mr Lynch is now in dispute with Quilter which dismissed him — he claims unfairly — in November. There is no suggestion that large losses have been incurred, as in the case of other options dealers who have been dismissed.

Dr Christopher Honeyborne, the chief executive of Quilter, subsequently wrote to the secretary of the Stock Exchange, apologizing for the fact that Mr Lynch did not have the appropriate clearance.

BP deal set to be confirmed

The Government's final objections to BP's takeover of Britoil, the Glasgow-based independent oil exploration group, are likely to be removed in time for the Chancellor to announce the completion of the takeover tomorrow.

BP already has more than 55 per cent of Britoil shares, but the Government is using its golden share to extract a firm guarantee from BP that the Britoil operations will retain a high degree of autonomy, and that the Glasgow office and staff will remain intact.

BP is likely to give assurances that its own exploration staff and operations will be moved to Glasgow. Its offer has gone unconditional.

Gulliver tops rival bid for Waverley

By Cliff Feltham

Mr James Gulliver has raised his offer for Waverley Cameron, the Scottish stationery manufacturer, to more than £5 million, topping a £4.8 million bid from Flavell Communications.

Mr Gulliver's private company, Sanda Investments, has increased its terms from 270p to 520p a share cash for a controlling stake, and has the enthusiastic support of the Cameron board, where he has been chairman since December.

Last night, Mr Waverley Cameron, managing director of Cameron, said: "Mr Gulliver has some exciting ideas for the business. We think shareholders should support his proposals." The board is opposed to the Flavell offer.

In a letter to shareholders, Mr Cameron says: "Sanda's proposals will involve the development of the existing business and the acquisition of other businesses trading in a variety of sectors."

"Sanda's proposals are based on the injection of high-quality dedicated management to revitalize the fortunes of Waverley Cameron, and to create within Scotland another major listed company."

Sanda has nearly 13 per cent of the company and proposes to inject £1.6 million in return for an increase to 64 per cent. Flavell, run by Mr Kevin Doyle, has made a full bid worth 500p and sits on a 26 per cent stake.

USM REVIEW

Parkway bounces back to top

By Michael Clark and Carol Leonard

Parkway, the marketing services group, has regained the number one position in the Deloitte Haskins & Sells USM ratings after slipping into second place last month.

It leads the way with 273 points while Rockwood Holdings, the electronic components distributor, which was clinging to the number one spot at the end of December, has fallen to third place with 239 points after being overhauled by Hawthorn Leslie, the revamped leisure and electrical products group, on 244 points.

Deloitte says Parkway, which has announced a £3.5 million rights issue to fund an acquisition programme, taking it firmly into the US market, regains top place with a rise in the share price of 15 per cent. That compared with the 8 per cent rise in the Datastream USM index during the same period. Parkway was floated on the USM last July at 110p and closed on Friday at 260p.

Chartsearch, the newsletter and book publisher was the only new entry in the ratings, coming sixth with 200 points. It

came to the USM at 18p in October and saw its price close on Friday at 26p.

Mr Irvin Sellers has certainly made his mark at Martin Ford, the loss-making fashion retailer, since he and his fellow director Mr Mel Morris reversed their privately owned property company

USM prices.....25

Seller-Morris into it in August. In return, both are now sitting on 38 per cent of Martin Ford which was forced to make the move from a full listing to the USM.

Mr Sellers has wasted little time in turning the company round. Its own broker, Barclays de Zoete Wedd, is forecasting pretax profits for the year to April of £3.1 million compared with a loss in 1987 of £2.2 million.

Martin Ford now bears little resemblance to the retail group of a few months ago. Fashion retailing accounts for only 10 per cent of the business. The main thrust of profits comes from specialist retail property development and investment. Mr Sellers is keen to spread the group's property interests into other

areas and is looking for suitable partners for other ventures. In autumn, the group had £138 million of property development on the stocks, now it has at least £200 million.

But he has no intention of running down the retail side. "It's still a good business," he says. "I can choose to expand it or even float it off." Martin Ford's change of direction has also meant a change of identity. Last week the group announced it was changing its name to Ford Seller Morris Properties.

Coppymore, a leading distributor of office equipment, makes its USM debut today. It will be the first company to resume its flotation plans after Black Monday. It was originally to have been floated in November.

The company was founded in 1979 by Mr Jeff Godbold and Mr Claudio Sarro, former sales managers with another office equipment company. The placing of some 25 per cent of its stock by Laurence Pratt is expected to capitalize it at about £14 million. Profits in 1986 were £750,000, from sales of £9 million, with profits expected to rise to £1.25 million for 1987. Its p/e will be about 16.

Cuts urged in higher tax rates

By David Smith
Economics Correspondent

Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in his March 15 Budget, should aim for reductions in all the higher rates of income tax, a Centre for Policy Studies paper published today says. But at the same time he should restrict tax relief to basic-rate payers, the paper adds.

The paper, entitled *Personal Taxes for the Nineties*, written by Mr Jonathan Bond, a management consultant, calls on the Chancellor to establish a new and more simple income tax system with only four bands.

The top rate should be reduced from 60 to 50 per cent, he says, and the basic rate from 27 to 25 per cent. In between these two there would be just two rates, 35 per cent and 45 per cent.

The cost of such a change would be £3.7 billion, but £1.4 billion of this could be clawed back, Mr Bond says, by restricting mortgage interest and pensions relief to the basic rate of income tax, and by the change in taxpayers' behaviour that would result from cuts in the higher rates of tax.

Mr Bond says the Chancellor has an ideal opportunity to embark on a big tax reform. "The background to the Budget of March 1988 makes it the best opportunity for tax reform since 1945: a booming economy, the first prospect for a balanced budget for 20 years and a strong Government four years from the polls."

CEGB launches campaign to have a say on national grid

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Lord Marshall of Goring, the chairman of the Central Electricity Generating Board, will this week begin his campaign to win support from back-bench MPs against the Government's proposals for privatizing the electricity industry.

Senior managers at the CEGB still hope that proposals drawn up by Mr Cecil Parkinson, the Secretary of State for Energy, for the break-up of the industry can be modified as they pass through Parliament.

The CEGB hopes it can retain some form of control over the national grid which, under the Parkinson proposals, will be passed on to the distribution companies which will also be given the statutory duty to provide power at present held by the CEGB.

This aspect of privatization, Mr Parkinson feels, is crucial to encouraging more competition in the industry. Lord Marshall will outline his objections to the Government plans — due to be published in a White Paper a

week after the March 15 Budget — to the Commons Energy Select Committee on Wednesday.

It will be his first opportunity for public comment on the matter. Both he and Sir Philip Jones, the chairman of the Electricity Council, have been instructed by Mr Parkinson to limit their public statements on the issue.

Lord Marshall, who discussed the issue with the Prime Minister last week, is

believed to have argued that breaking the link between the generating side of the business and the national grid poses a serious threat to the industry's ability to combat the effects of a miners' strike or a serious storm.

A compromise could be that the Government will place the national grid in a holding company owned by the distribution companies but operated on a management contract basis by the existing CEGB national control staff.

Support for the CEGB argument has come today from Professor George Yarrow, Economics Fellow of Hertford College, Oxford. In a report commissioned by the CEGB from Prima Europe, the policy consultant, he suggests that breaking up the CEGB is not the best way of encouraging competition.

Professor Yarrow argues that because the generation and the transmission systems are so closely linked any breaking of that link would threaten the security of supplies.

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January 1988

ANALYSIS

Cash could prove decisive in Blue Circle battle for Birmid

Mr Peter Prateley, the managing director of Birmid Quilcast, is a compulsive doodler. He used to draw designs incorporating rectangles, arrows and circles — but since December, when Blue Circle launched a hostile bid for Birmid, he has, understandably, avoided circles.

The bid is less clearcut than many, as the victim has done little of late to deserve to be taken over. But the amount of money on the table is not inconceivable.

As Blue Circle's £275 million increased bid is 380p per share in cash, more emotive arguments about the sense and fairness of it all take second place. There promises to be a finely balanced finale when the doors close next Saturday.

As there is only a loan note alternative, investors do not have to consider the implications of taking Blue Circle's equity.

On Birmid's 1988 profit forecast of not less than £28 million, its shares stand on an exit price/earnings ratio of 14.8 times. Stripping out the £3 million pension fund holiday, it rises at least another point. This is above the prospective market multiple for the year of 11 times, and an even greater premium to the rating enjoyed by shares normally grouped with Birmid.

When Hepworth Ceramic approached Birmid last spring, its shares were within reach of 200p. Now they have nearly doubled, but could fall below 300p if the bid lapses.

The heroic days of late 1986 have been put into perspective by the stock market fall-out last autumn. Then the motives of predators were rubbished in the highest places in the land, letting several lucky companies off the hook.

Ethical considerations about the fate of companies caustically handed over to aggressors remain influential, but fund managers may not now be so eager to turn down offers, particularly if they involve cash.

Yet Birmid's largest institutional shareholder has pledged allegiance to the existing management. Some will be swayed by this declaration, although the near-40 per cent stake already held by Blue Circle suggests others have decided otherwise.

Blue Circle wishes to use its substantial cash flow to build another leg to its mature cement business, and sees opportunities for consolidation in the £4 billion consumer product market. As yet it is barely represented through Armitage Shanks, the sanitaryware group.

Birmid spotted the same opportunities earlier, but as the smaller company, capitalised at £266 million against Blue Circle's £1.1 billion, it is in a weaker position.



Clear view: Blue Circle's David Poole, at Armitage Shanks last week, is more strongly committed to home products than his predecessors (Photograph by Kevin Harvey)

Looking at the underlying businesses, both Blue Circle and Birmid have medium-term records that do not cover them in glory. But, in Blue Circle's case, new management, and in Birmid's case the threat posed by an earlier predator, have brought about transformations.

It is easier to see this metamorphosis from the 73 per cent jump in Birmid's 1986-87 profits, followed by the apparently conservative forecast of a further 24 per cent rise this year.

Blue Circle needs the skilled management within Birmid

Birmid, under Mr Prateley's straightforward and thoughtful leadership, has done much to redeem itself. A worrying dependence on the foundry industry has been significantly reduced with resources re-invested in consumer products. These businesses have real growth potential in a market that has grown by 50 per cent since 1975.

Ten years ago, earnings from foundries contributed more than three-quarters of Birmid's profits, whereas now this prime position is occupied by its consumer products interests.

From roots put down after an almost accidental diversification into lawnmowers 20 years ago, Birmid has built up a range of businesses sporting well-known brand names such as Poterton boilers, New World gas cookers and Quilcast lawnmowers. Near

or absolute market leadership characterizes many of the businesses, as do strong market shares.

Last year saw the sale of the last of Birmid's problematic engineering companies and the purchase of New World.

With gearing of 16 per cent and positive cash flow, Birmid aims to continue making piecemeal purchases in a fragmented industry. Over and above this, organic growth can be fuelled by improved marketing, product innovation and careful cost control.

Blue Circle has also undergone a sea change, triggered by the ascendancy in the company's hierarchy of the urbane Mr David Poole and culminating in his appointment as managing director last year.

He appears to have ambitions to mastermind the revitalization of a group known for its introspection and lack of clear strategy.

Blue Circle's performance in recent years has been lacklustre, and frustratingly the 1987 results will not be revealed for a couple of months. Analysts are expecting pretax profits in excess of £150 million, but memories of past disappointments are still lurking in the shadows.

Thus it is difficult to assess how far-reaching and effective the changes already implemented by Mr Poole have been. Many of the decisions will take time to come through to the bottom line, while the correctness of some of the braver strategic moves has also to be proved.

Grey areas remain in the group's US building materials portfolio, where a supposedly temporary setback in Atlanta

has hit ready-mixed concrete profits.

Taken as a whole, however, Blue Circle's strategy in the US, a past responsibility of Mr Poole, has shown a more active and imaginative hand than in the group's previous geographical diversifications.

To date Mr Poole claims responsibility for realizing more than £170 million from disparate overseas cement ventures, and for throwing off the cloak of the 50-year-old cement common price agreement at home. He has re-

Better quality earnings would improve Blue Circle's rating

grouped Blue Circle Cement's broadly spread domestic interests as free-standing profit centres.

These are important breaks with the group's past, and should have a noticeable impact on productivity and accountability. The Blue Circle of the future hopes not to be dominated by a static domestic cement business.

Realizing the group's significant land holdings has also contributed to a stronger balance sheet. Gearing before Birmid is 17 per cent, and would rise to 55 per cent after, but is expected to drop back swiftly to no more than 40 per cent.

But improving the profitability of two-thirds of the group is only one side of the equation. Mr Poole wishes to use cash flow of at least £150 million a year to build a

consumer products division that would balance the £500 million domestic building materials activities. Indeed, if the cash is not redeployed shareholders might demand it be distributed to them.

But Blue Circle's record with Armitage is unexciting. Even leaving aside the latter's disastrous US venture, progress with the sanitaryware group should have been better, given the buoyancy of the marketplace and the strength of the brand names. More dynamic management might have backed it more aggressively. Mr Poole is, however, more committed to the home products market than were his predecessors.

The existing overlaps between Blue Circle and Birmid are small, though there may be marketing and distribution advantages to be gained from the complementary strong positions each group has with builders' merchants and DIY superstores.

After all, the potential of the consumer products market has attracted both companies. Birmid is just better established than Blue Circle.

Blue Circle needs the skilled management within Birmid Quilcast. It also needs a new leg to its business if earnings are to move ahead.

The law of diminishing returns will soon come into play in the British cement market, as there is a limit to how much profits can increase through cost reductions. A better quality and spread of earnings would also bring Blue Circle a more respectable stock market rating.

This may enable it to look for other acquisitions. The gap in Blue Circle's portfolio after Birmid is timber products, so vulnerable companies such as Magnet may come under its gaze.

For the want of about £14 million, or an extra 20p a share, Blue Circle has probably missed an agreed bid for Birmid. Indeed if the make-up of the personalities involved were less like chalk and cheese, this price might have clinched it.

Birmid is unlikely to escape, and if this is the case its management should seize the opportunity of being part of a larger group with a commitment to consumer products, and of continuing with the strategies it has already demonstrated.

After all, to remain independent in these uncertain times could increase the risk of falling all too soon into the hands of a less committed and more aggressive predator.

On balance Birmid shareholders should accept a fair offer.

Alexandra Jackson

GILT-EDGED

Index-linked are ready to prove their worth

Every dog has its day and the day of the index-linked government stock is dawning. The index-linked sector of the gilt-edged market is still a thing of mystery to many investors but it is likely to vie with the fixed coupon sector this year as the provider of performance to investment portfolios.

There is still a fair proportion of investors who believe that index-linked stocks have something to do with inflation. On this popular view, the index-linked perform well when inflation is rising and badly when price rises are subdued. In fact, it is the fixed coupon market which is exposed to inflation; it tends to go down when prices accelerate and takes heart from a cooling of inflationary pressures.

The index-linked market is really about real yields. When an investor buys an index-linked stock he is largely absolved from any judgement on future inflation. The success or failure of his play depends on the correctness of his view on prospective real yields.

It has to be said that there is a mountain of investor prejudice against the index-linked sector. The timing of the introduction of index-linked government stocks in 1981 was unfortunate for it was then that real interest rates worldwide began to escalate.

Economists, even now, find difficulty in explaining why real interest rates rose from 1981 onwards but it may well have been related to investors' increasingly bullish expectations regarding the profits to be earned from investment in productive assets. These, in turn, stemmed from the pro-business, deregulationist policy-stance of governments in the leading industrial countries. Optimism was carried to exaggerated lengths in the final equity market surge before last October.

Following the stock market crash, expectation of returns from investment are settling back to levels consistent with the prospect of relatively subdued world economic growth, at best in a range of 2-3 per cent per annum, for the foreseeable future. Reduced optimism on long-term company profits growth means that bonds will not have to work so hard to compete with equities; in other words, real yields can fall.

It is a commonplace now that bond yields are made in Japan. The fact that a preponderant slice of the world's long-term savings are generated within Japan is the supporting evidence for this claim.

The most striking feature in world bond markets so far in 1988 has been the 50-basis-point fall in the 10-year Japanese government bond yield, from 4.75 per cent to 4.25 per cent. This is what created the excitement ahead of last week's US Treasury auction as the market looked for Japanese investors to prefer high-yielding US paper to their own government's securities. The fall in Japanese yields occurred without an accompanying decline in expectations of Japanese inflation.

Indeed, if anything, inflation fears have gathered strength in an economy displaying robust growth in domestic demand. There has, therefore, been a significant compression of real bond yields in Japan, the first sign that lower real yields worldwide are on the way.

Real yields in the Japanese government's bond market are now probably below 3 per cent. This compares with the almost 4 per cent yields still available on British index-linked stocks. On yield criteria alone, British index-linked stocks look good value. Sooner or later, yields on these stocks are likely to decline to take account of more modest expectations of real return from investment. What is harder to judge is the timing of such a move.

There is no doubt that many investors still nurse prejudice against the index-linked sector because of their experiences with these stocks since 1981. Fund managers who might readily give their assent to the proposition that real yields are likely to fall, nevertheless balk at committing part of their portfolios to the index-linked market.

It will take time for the connection between declining real yields and rising index-linked prices to be established. There are, however, some pointers which suggest that the re-evaluation of the index-linked market will not be long delayed.

The Government's financing position is very comfortable and this could reduce funding pressures in the gilt-edged market. Mr Lawson

may well be able, in his Budget speech, not only to report a public sector debt repayment in the 1987-88 financial year but to project a further repayment for 1988-89.

If the prospect of a favourable supply-demand balance is good for gilts generally, it is especially so for the index-linked which in the past have been weighed down by official selling.

Furthermore, whatever the authorities under-take in the future are likely to be much more sensitively handled than were some official forays into the market in the past.

The capacity of investors for absorbing new stock has now been established. This is reflected in the authorities' preference for issuing relatively small tranches of existing index-linked issues, £50 million or £100 million each, rather than the block-buster £400 million slabs of stock that were launched on to the market in its early days.

Clearly, from this change in issuing policy, the authorities do not intend the index-linked to go the way to oblivion of such exotics as the Treasury Variable Rate Stock. They are still committed to nurturing this market as a fully fledged investment sector and, perhaps, to developing it as a yardstick of value for the fixed coupon gilt and equity sectors.

If index-linked yields fall within the next year or two, as we expect, to around the 3 per cent long-term average real yield on government securities, the capital appreciation on the longer-dated issues would be around 25 per cent.

This kind of performance might be achievable on a well-selected portfolio to equities but, given the present uncertain economic climate, few investors will be confident of reaching it. It is conceivable that fixed coupon gilts will do as well as index-linked but, in this case, the investor has to assume the additional risk of an uncertain inflation forecast.

Arguments such as these are likely to find increasing favour and to power a strong recovery in the index-linked sector. The days of underperformance are probably over.

Stephen Lewis
Phillips & Drew

City job losses unlikely to stem office rent rises

By Cliff Feltham

Office rents are likely to rise in the City and London's Docklands this year, despite the loss of jobs caused by the stock market crash, according to Hanover Druce, the property agent.

The firm, in a review of the property market, says the demand for space in the City has been spectacular, fuelled by Big Bang, and it believes this year is probably not a time for caution.

"It is likely that rents will continue to rise in the City and Docklands, where levels have reached £20 a sq ft and £30 a sq ft on the fringe of the City, at Wapping," it says.

"However, if there is a continuing shake-up in the City finance houses, and with 12,000,000 sq ft of office space likely to be available in the City and Docklands by 1989 — together with Olympia and York's scheme at Canary Wharf — will we experience oversupply?"

"At the very least, we would expect that rental growth in the City will peak over the next 18 months to two years."

The firm also says commercial property rental growth has averaged at 15 per cent.

Why the personnel officers still feel they are 'unloved'

By John Spicer, Employment Affairs Correspondent

The importance of personnel staff to companies and the perception of their role by executives is growing, according to a survey published today.

Nearly three-quarters (73 per cent) of top management interviewed said that over the past five years they had made more use of their personnel departments to achieve business aims.

Fifty-six per cent of those questioned said they believed that personnel staff will become more important over the next five years.

But despite 65 per cent of managers saying that personnel departments were a significant part of a company's corporate culture, the personnel officers themselves still feel "unloved".

The survey is published in the first edition of *Personnel*

Today, and by contrast with the top managers' views of personnel staffs, their own view of themselves is more critical.

Exactly one-third accepted the criticism that personnel professionals lacked an understanding of the business they worked in.

Some of the remainder, while disputing this, still admitted that personnel officers were "staid," that they had "ivory tower attitudes" and lacked management experience.

Although 91 per cent of top directors interviewed for the survey believed that the calibre of their personnel manager directly affected the "bottom line" in the company, personnel staff felt they were not appreciated.

In one case, a chief executive credited his personnel

director with reshaping his company, while the personnel director still complained that the top management failed to appreciate the work his department did.

The survey was carried out among 100 executives of top British companies and their personnel directors and managers.

Miss Helena Sturridge, the editor of *Personnel Today*, commented: "Although it is good to see that personnel departments are being more widely used in achieving business aims, the profession still has many obstacles to overcome — mainly of its own creation."

"The survey shows that the support for personnel professionals is clearly there and we hope that they take advantage of this."

Own-label sales growth 'slowing'

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

The rapid growth of the big grocery stores' own-label brands could be slowing.

This is after five years in which sales of this type have more than doubled.

The impact of the big grocery chains in developing house brands can be gauged from the three most active in the field — J Sainsbury, Tesco and Marks and Spencer — together accounting for 59 per cent of all own-label sales which, in turn, represents 32 per cent of grocery multiples' total turnover.

The multiples stock the well-known national brands of goods, but have had lines produced specially to sell under their own name at prices lower than the national brands.

This picture of the own-label market is provided by Marketpower, a specialist researcher whose reputation has

so far largely been built on analyses of catering industry markets, including attitude surveys within the industry.

Leading grocery multiples saw own-label trade approaching £9.2 billion in 1986, it is estimated.

In suggesting a brake on growth in the own-label sector, Marketpower is running counter to a common view that the fast rates of growth seen in this market will continue as more stores increasingly use it as a way of gearing up total sales.

The key reason for the expected slowdown put forward by Marketpower is the reluctance it found among most leading retailers to see own-label sales account for more than 40 per cent of their total.

The retailers feared that going further would lead to

retrenchment by the national brand manufacturers to the detriment of the overall structure of the market.

If this turns out to be right, it will be good news for manufacturers of national brand goods after years of increasing commercial pressure from the multiples. Food manufacturers have long complained of tight profit margins.

Nevertheless, the Marketpower forecast says that own-label grocery retail sales will have grown a further 16 per cent in real terms by 1991, netting out the effects of inflation.

In the retail market as a whole, own-label food is predicted to increase by 20 per cent and non-food by 11 per cent with an 18 per cent rise overall.

Penetration is also particularly high in some product

areas. In cooked meats and chilled foods, for instance, own-label items have a 59 per cent market share while in dairy products they account for 54 per cent of sales.

With many non-food items own-label has a low level of penetration, examples being pharmaceuticals, with a 16 per cent share, and soaps and detergents which have a 14 per cent share with £107 million sales. But Marketpower sounds a note of caution and adds that there are signs that these low penetration levels will rise.

There could be own-label gains, particularly in chilled, and frozen foods as well as wines, according to the survey.

Own-label Statistical Review 1986-1990: £485 from Marketpower, 84 Usbridge Road, London W13 8RA.

Lloyds Bank American Express Gold Card.

With effect from 8 February 1988 the rate of interest applicable to Lloyds Bank American Express Gold Card overdrafts has been increased to 1.0 per cent per month. Effective Annual Rate 12.6 per cent.



A THOROUGHRED AMONGST BANKS.
Lloyds Bank Plc, 71 Lombard Street, London EC3P 3BS.

Grindlays Bank p.l.c. Interest Rates

Grindlays Bank p.l.c. announces that its base rate for lending is changed from 8½% to 9% with effect from 2nd February 1988

Grindlays Bank p.l.c.

Member ANZ Group

Head Office: Grindlays Bank plc, Minerva House, Montague Close, London SE1 9DH.

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GM to switch £200m of car component orders to UK

By Daniel Ward
Motor Industry Correspondent

General Motors plans to switch a further £200 million of component orders from mainly West German suppliers to British companies over the next two years.

Last year, GM brought £200 million of component orders to British firms, following the sharp strengthening of the mark.

Half the increased business will come from Vauxhall, the rest from GM's West German Opel subsidiary. Mr Paul Tosh, the chairman and managing director of Vauxhall Motors, said: "There is a general move to put more component manufacturing in Britain, recognizing that it is the second biggest market - after Germany - for GM."

The increased level of British sourcing for parts would raise the local content of Vauxhall cars from 55 to 60 per cent during 1988, Mr Tosh forecast.

Vauxhall is half way through a three-year programme to reduce operating costs by 25 per cent. Mr Tosh said the objective will take longer to achieve than expected, but stressed: "We have made good progress and this is reflected in the fact that Vauxhall made a net profit in 1987 for the first time since 1978."

This year, the company expects to sell more than 280,000 cars in Britain, compared with 271,000 last year.



Good progress in Vauxhall's drive to cut operating costs by 25 per cent: Paul Tosh

The increase will be modest because of the disruption at the Luton plant when the new Cavalier model is introduced in the late summer.

Although Vauxhall will invest a modest £20 million in modern machinery for the new model, Mr Tosh said the company was considering increasing Cavalier output from the current level of 32 cars an hour. "There is some potential in shipping cars to the Continent and some

growth in the British market," he explained.

Last April, Vauxhall angered the unions when cars were exported from British plants to the Continent for only three months after a break of seven years. The company said demand in Europe for the Cavalier had not been as strong as expected.

Critics of GM's assembly-only operation in Britain have, in the past, been told

that when GM came to invest in a new £100 million-plus engine plant, Britain would be well placed to win the investment. Mr Tosh said this was no longer true, as GM has more engine capacity than it needs for the foreseeable future.

Mr Tosh raised the prospect of working with GM-owned Lotus on sporting models with the aim of adding some "excitement" to the British range.

Full order books for civil engineers

By Derek Harris
Industrial Editor

The construction boom shows no signs of slowing, with more civil engineering contractors reporting full order books than a year ago. A majority also sees improvements for a year ahead.

There are problems, as costs are rising and some labour shortages are setting in, making it difficult for some contractors to pitch tenders at price levels calculated to restore healthier profitability.

However, some in the industry admit that the flood of tenders coming out is now creating conditions where prices are likely to rise.

The latest quarterly survey of the £4 billion industry by the Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors last month found that contracting firms of all sizes have bigger order books.

There were 67 per cent reporting a 12-month improvement in orders - against 62 per cent in the previous survey - and more than half said order books were better than in the middle of last year.

Many contractors are also sanguine about prospects for the next 12 months, despite unease elsewhere over a slowdown in economic growth and possible excess London office capacity emerging, especially in the City.

Over the next 12 months, 52 per cent of the contractors expect new orders to rise. Three months before, only 43 per cent were that optimistic.

Repair and maintenance work is also being seen as either staying at current levels or rising, the more optimistic view being taken by 41 per cent of the contractors.

More than half the firms expect to be employing more people.

The overall rising trend seems to be spreading outwards from the South-east in what the federation describes as a "welcome ripple".

Buying the industry are projects - either started or in prospect - such as a series of power stations, the Channel tunnel and London's Canary Wharf.

However, Mr Ron Emery, the federation's director-general, said: "If the economy turns sour in 18 months' time, civil engineering work would be among the first to suffer."

On profit levels, the federation gave this warning: "The intensely competitive situation which developed when work was in short supply is proving slow to ease, and costs are becoming more difficult to contain as demand increases for labour, plant and specialist sub-contractors."

ECONOMIC VIEW

Tax cuts mean closures in avoidance industry

Concern is growing among the business community and its advisers about the future of the Business Expansion Scheme and a range of other tax incentives if the Chancellor, Nigel Lawson, cuts the higher rates of tax in the Budget.

The success of the BES in tapping personal savings for business has depended on the tax relief the scheme provides. If the top rates of income tax are cut the value of the relief will be cut too.

Also affected could be Personal Equity Plans, Enterprise Zones, private forestry and the structure of the pensions industry, all of which enjoy tax reliefs that have been particularly attractive to high-rate taxpayers.

None of this should dissuade the Chancellor from bringing the higher rates down on March 15. Nor is it likely to do so. Lower rates will leave more money available for investment anyway. The whole point of cutting rates is to leave spending and saving decisions with individuals, and reduce the need for special exemptions. These complicate the tax system and distort behaviour. The Chancellor need do nothing to rebuild these tax shelters when he has contrived a warmer climate outside them.

There may, none the less, be a degree of embarrassment for Mr Lawson. For in pursuing the general principle of tax neutrality the Chancellor, like others before him, has constantly been tempted by the urge to give people an incentive to behave more as the Government would like.

Some of the special tax incentives introduced to achieve this "economic engineering" have been moderately successful. The Business Expansion Scheme, though not always financing the high-risk investments for which it was intended, has certainly increased the funds available to unquoted companies. During 1985-86 a total of £157 million was raised under the scheme at a cost of about half that amount in government revenue.

If the advisers who channel most of this money into the BES are right, this amount will fall substantially if higher rates are cut. The Chancellor, however, should stick to his principles and not seek to offset the reduced attractions of the exemption. Tax relief on up to £40,000 a year at the taxpayer's marginal rate will still be quite attractive.

Personal Equity Plans may present a more difficult problem. PEPs have so far done little to spread share ownership as intended. Although a cut in higher rates is no reason of itself to increase the scheme's fiscal attractions, without some improvement it does not look like ever making any significant difference to genuine individual share ownership. This is true still after the steep fall in the stock market.

According to tax practitioners the

flow of savings into pensions and forestry is less likely to be affected than shorter-term investments. Whereas money might be tied up in forests or for retirement for 20 years or more, equity can be taken out of the BES after five years while PEPs attract relief after only one year. But it is clear that changing the structure of personal taxes is going to demand just as much flexibility from the savings industry as the ending of life assurance premium relief required from the life offices in 1984. A contraction in the tax avoidance business will do no harm at all.

The Keith iceberg

A Finance Bill is rather like an iceberg - nine tenths of it is usually invisible to the public. This year the submerged mass of detail could reveal some important changes in the taxpayer's relationship with the Inland Revenue.

Back in the summer of 1980 a committee was set up under the chairmanship of Lord Keith of Kinkel to consider and make recommendations on the enforcement powers of the revenue departments. The first two volumes of the report were published in March 1983 and a consultative document, *The Inland Revenue and the Taxpayer*, was subsequently issued by the Inland Revenue seeking views by the end of October last year.

Some of Lord Keith's recommendations have already passed into law, including the provisions for indirect taxes collected by Customs and Excise and the simplified "Pay and File" procedure for corporation tax introduced in the last Finance Act.

But a number of important issues remain to be considered. Among the most significant of these for the average taxpayer are the timing of tax returns and penalties for late or incorrect returns.

At present, tax returns are supposed to be completed within 30 days of being issued by the Revenue, but this requirement is honoured more in the breach than in observance. Lord Keith proposed a more realistic time limit of three months, extendable with the inspector's approval to six months, with automatic penalties for non-compliance. He also proposed changes in the law on privacy and the Revenue's right to information in what was presented as "a balanced package".

Depending on the size of the Finance Bill there must be a good case for carrying through any other approved changes in the law on compliance in the first Budget of Parliament. Some tightening of the rules could act as a political counterweight to cuts in higher rates.

Rodney Lord
Economics Editor

Bristol dock plan given the go-ahead

By Colin Nutbrown

The Government has given Bristol the go-ahead to raise the funds for the initial phase of its £47 million long-term plan to modernize and develop its dock facilities - a scheme intended to put the loss-making port back in the black and restore its importance to the region's infrastructure.

The Department of Transport has said that Bristol City Council can in the coming financial year borrow the first £4 million towards its 14-year investment programme, drawn up with the help of Technicon, an outside firm of consultants.

The Government's commitment applies only to the coming financial year, and no assurances have been given about its support over the remaining years of the scheme.

Whitehall has, however, clearly considered the long-term implications before approving the first phase, and

Venture backers seek tax breaks

By Alison Eadie

The British Venture Capital Association, in its Budget submission, has called for the Government to grant the type of tax incentives to entrepreneurs that are available to passive investors in Business Expansion Scheme investments.

Mr Ronald Cohen, a past chairman of the BVCA and chairman of its political liaison committee, said managers being called on to leave secure jobs in big businesses to go into small companies needed some incentive to compensate for the risks. If the small business were to fail, the entrepreneur would lose not only the pension rights, salary and status associated with large corporate jobs, but possibly his house as well if he had taken out a second mortgage.

Passive investors in BES investments enjoy income tax relief on up to £40,000 a year, and pay no capital gains tax on the sale of the investment. The BVCA would like entrepreneurs to qualify for income tax relief on investments of up to £100,000 and have the same break on CGT.

Incentives for entrepreneurs should not cost the Government much. The BVCA members invest in 700 businesses a year, with entrepreneurs putting in an average £40,000 each. Assuming an average tax rate at 50 per cent, the lost tax from BVCA investments would be £14 million.

To set against that, the Government receives corporation tax from successful businesses, and income tax and national savings contributions from the jobs created by new businesses.

The BVCA estimates that by 1992 venture-backed businesses in Britain will employ a total 1.6 million people against 566,000 last year. Mr Cohen said finding good managers was one of the hardest parts of getting small companies off the ground in Britain.

Vehicle sales move into the fast lane

By Our Motor Industry Correspondent

Buoyant demand for vehicles continued in January with a sharp rise in both truck and car registrations.

Sales of commercial vehicles increased 14.4 per cent compared with the same month last year to 28,880 and car sales improved 12.6 per cent to a record 194,482.

Industry observers have forecast that the first half of the year will continue to show strong demand for trucks.

This was reflected in January sales of vehicles of 3.5 tonnes gross weight and above jumping 24.5 per cent to 5,356 compared with the corresponding month in 1987.

Iveco Ford and Leyland DAF headed this sector in 1987, separated only by a handful of registrations. In January, Leyland DAF slipped back to 19.3 per cent behind Iveco Ford (22.2 per cent). Volvo sold 642 heavy

trucks and drew closer to third-placed Mercedes (817).

Demand for four-wheel-drive vehicles rose 25 per cent to 1,727 in January as Japanese manufacturers pushed up sales. Land-Rover's share has dropped from 50 per cent to 37 per cent in 12 months.

In the booming car market the post-Black Monday gloom has now been replaced by forecasts of another two million-strong market, though

sales will slow down towards the end of this year.

Vauxhall recovered from a disappointing 1987 to a record in January, its best market share for over a year. Ford again led the market, its share slightly lower at 27.3 per cent.

Citroen achieved the fastest growth in sales, making a record 3.7 per cent market share, according to figures from the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders.

Student brought to account

Woe betide all accountancy students. One hapless individual has just been judged ineligible to sit his examinations by the Chartered Association of Certified Accountants, and all because of a breach of the peace conviction last year. The conviction, which was accompanied by a £50 fine - and a binding over for a year - could, after all, have been the result of something as minor as a protest march or some other high-spirited student antic. The all-powerful disciplinary committee, however, saw fit to order that the student "be declared unfit to become a member and be removed from the Student Register, be ordered to pay £100 costs and that the decision be published in the professional Press referring to the student by name". A subsequent appeal by the student caused them to relent somewhat. His name is to be withheld, he has not been ordered to pay costs, and he has been banned from sitting the association's exams for 12 months. I would be surprised if he still wants to.

Hunger pangs

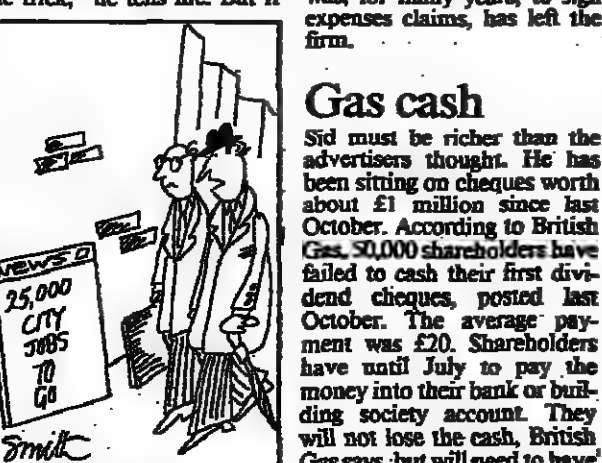
Staff morale at Citicorp Scrimgeour Vickers is now at such a low ebb that the personnel department has been questioning individual sales staff about their state of mind to ensure that they would be able to cope should volume levels in the stock market suddenly increase. One institutional salesman confided that such time

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

What the Butler saw

The paths of supermarket groups Dees Corporation and B&D had, I hear, crossed before B&D launched its ambitious £2 billion takeover bid. B&D, when it bought Boddams from Booker, apparently inherited a running battle involving its supermarket in Porchester Place, London. The local residents' association, the chairman of which was some other than Tony Butler, Dees's business development director, had been complaining of the noise made by delivery lorries. When

and motion studies were unnecessary. "A simple reinstatement of our lunch expense accounts would do the trick," he tells me. But it



"Perhaps I'll get my parking space back"

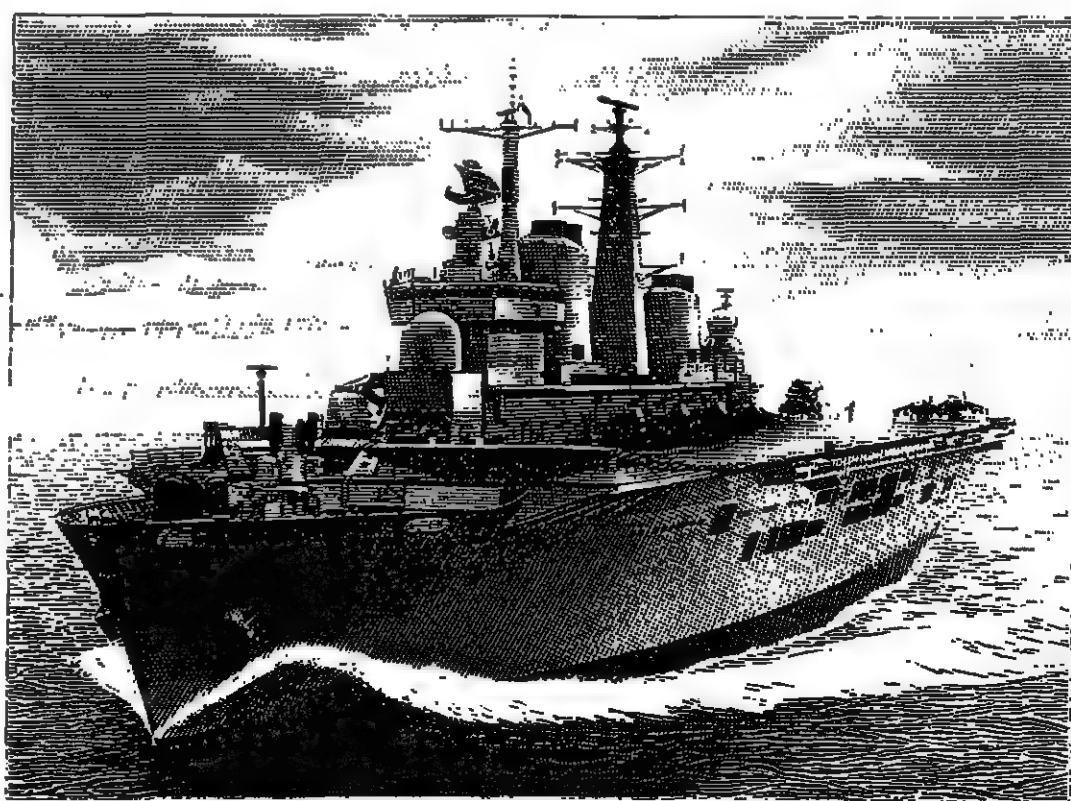
Greens fingers

Denis Henderson, the chairman of ICI, must surely have a literary career ahead of him. Just a couple of weeks after immediate past chairman Sir John Harvey Jones published his first book, it comes to light that another former chairman, Sir Peter Allen, has also been at his typewriter. Sir Peter, aged 62, who already has a string of books about railways to his name, has just published a revised edition of his first golfing book, *Play the Best Course*. And a second golfing book - about royal golf courses and the royals who played - is already under way. Sir Peter is now, sadly, confined to crutches by a hip problem, but in his heyday, however, he played off a six handicap, and on more than 400 courses around the world. His favourite? "The Royal Cinque Ports Club in Deal, Kent," he says. "I first played it 60 years ago and it humbled me. It's not beautiful, but the last nine holes are among the toughest in golf." Next on his list comes Royal St George's, at Sandwich, and the Newcastle course, County Down.

Shares in TSL Group, the old Thermal Syndicate, leapt into action after-hours last week, rising 17p on talk of a bid approach. But any predator sniffing around had better be made of sterner stuff. Two of TSL's directors, Dr Al Roach and Will Morley are expected to come out with all guns blazing - both are former paratroopers who saw action at Arnhem.

Carol Leonard

Trade in your Porsche for something a little bigger.



Could you handle a multi-million pound warship?

Could you lead teams of highly trained specialists?

We're looking for high calibre candidates to become officers in the Royal Navy and Royal Marines.

Training for some branches could begin in late April.

Come and talk to us at a Central London hotel on 11th and 12th February, between 12.00 and 20.00.

Please telephone 01-405 8602 to arrange an appointment.



You should be under 26 and educated to Degree or 'A' level standard. You should also have been a UK resident for the past five years. The Armed Forces are Equal Opportunity Employers under the terms of the Race Relations Act 1976.

Sterling index compared with 1975 was down at 74.2 (day's range 74.2-74.4).

Sterling index compared with 1975 was down at 74.2 (day's range 74.2-74.4).

OTHER STERLING RATES

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Rates supplied by Barclays Bank HOFEX and Ecol.

MONEY MARKETS

[illegible]

APPOINTMENTS

Ward Interiors: Mr Paul Stephenson is appointed sales and marketing director.

Rank Cintel: Mr David Fenton becomes sales director, Mr Jack Brittain business development director, Mr Ron Mumford technical director and Mr Alan Morris works director.

Granard Rowland Communications: Mrs. Elizabeth Fraser is appointed managing director, client services and Mrs. Jane Atkinson, managing director.

business development. Miss Lorna Campbell, Mr David Charlton, Mrs Judy Ditchburn, Mrs Joy Gilchrist, Mr

Bill Jones, Mr Michael Mansfield and Miss Roberta Pearce join the board.

BOARD MEETINGS

— Interims: Heiton Holdings. Finalized Term Investments. Domino Print-

BASE LENDING RATES

ABN	9.00%
Adam & Company	9.00%
BCCI	9.00%
Consolidated Crds	9.00%
Co-operative Bank	8.50%
C. Hoare & Co	9.00%
Hong Kong & Shanghai	9.00%
Lloyds Bank	9.00%
Nat Westminster	9.00%
Royal Bank of Scotland	9.00%
TSB	9.00%
Citicbank NA	9.00%

BOARD MEETINGS

TOMORROW - Interims: Ashted Group, Marier Estates. Finals: Ericsson, Securicor Group, Security Services.

WEDNESDAY — Interims: Harvey and Thompson. **Finals:** Company of Designers, Egerton Trust.

THURSDAY — Interims: Amstrad, BOC Group, Elbief, Personal Computers. Finals: Kennedy Brooks, Gosling Kerr, Scandinavian Bank.

FRIDAY — Finals: Anglo and Overseas Trust.

UNLISTED SECURITIES

[illegible]

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

[illegible]

THIRD MARKET

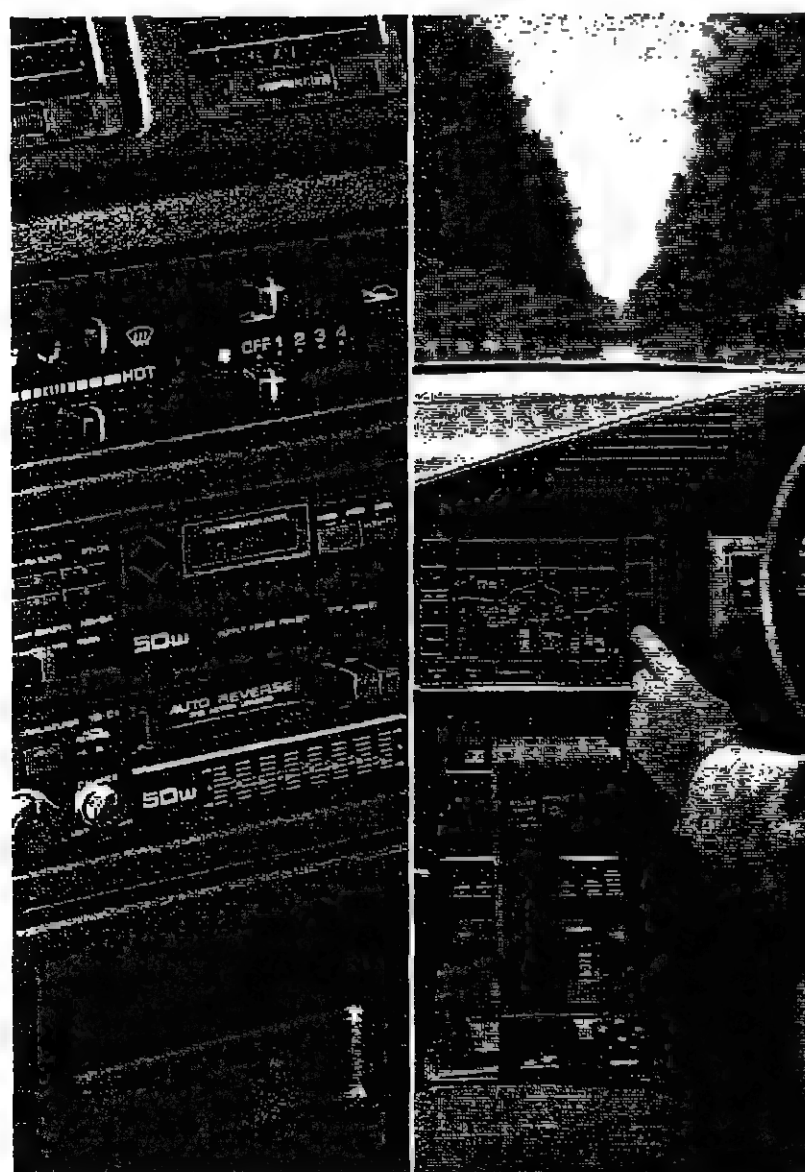
Coin	Country	Price per ounce	Days on market	Days in mint	Gr. wt. troy	Purity
7,796.000	Albania	183	-70	4.8	2.5	18.4
8,298.000	Algeria	117	-	3.3	4.7	18.0
3,592.000	Algeria	10	-	..	..	..
3,552.000	Andorra	20	-	..	..	..
1,327.000	Angola	86	-	..	..	..
—	— Broadcast —	100	-5	..	..	..
8,798.000	Armenia	37	+1	3.8	2.9	28.0
11,500.000	Australia	10	+6	..	..	..
2,204.000	Cambodia	180	-1	..	..	..
1,696.000	Cameroon	88	-	3.3	4.9	18.0
1,881.000	Canada	10	-	..	..	..
1,327.000	Chad	86	-	..	..	..
42.000	Czechoslovakia	126	-	..	..	..
10,000	Dominican	124	-7	..	..	..
19,200	Dominican	10	-	..	..	..
11.000	East E. Asia	112	-	1.0	1.4	..
11.000	East E. Asia	112	-	..	..	..
6,714.000	Honduras	27	-1	..	..	..
2,506.000	India (P)	10	-	..	..	..
40.000	Indonesia	34	-6	..	..	..
2,604.000	Lybia	10	-	..	..	..
11.000	Madagascar	10	-	..	..	..
2,803.000	Palestine	70	-	..	..	..
11.000	Paraguay	17	-	..	..	..
9,853.000	Sierra Leone	30	-	..	..	..
11.000	South Africa	20	-	..	..	..
6,662.000	Tanzania	10	-3	1.4	0.8	26.0
11.000	Tanzania	10	-	..	..	..
11.000	United States	140	-	6.3	6.8	7.0

GOLD

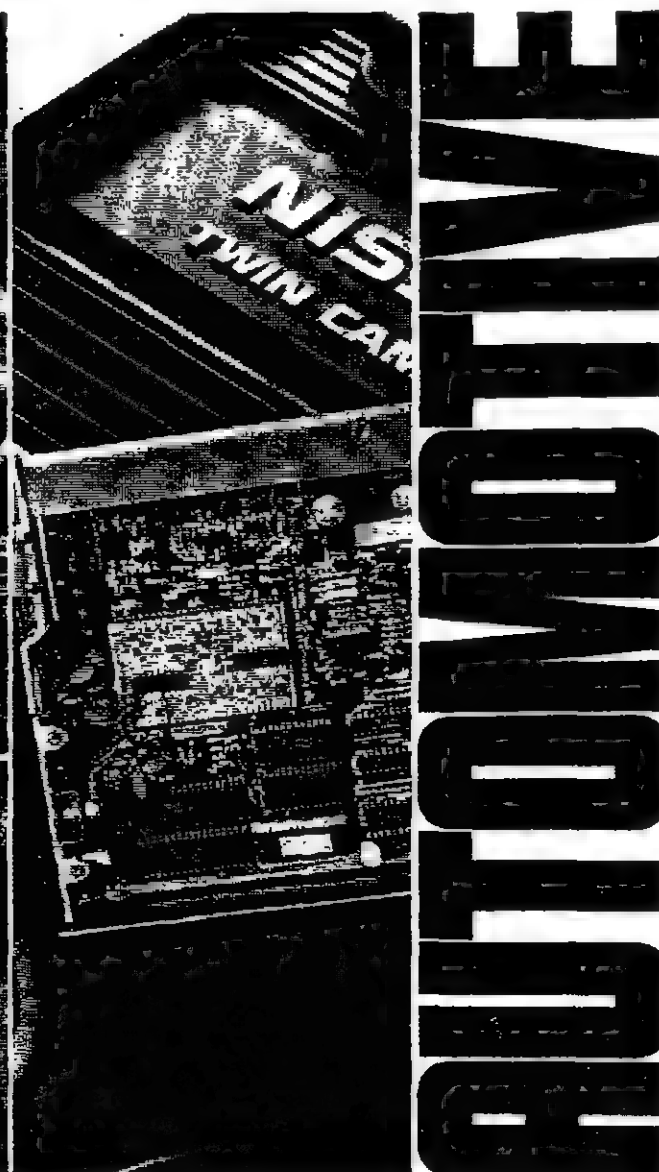
BULLION:
Open: \$448.50-447.00 Close: \$438.75-438.25
High: \$448.50-447.00 Low: \$438.00-438.50

COINS: Per coin ("Ex VAT")
Britannia: \$451.00-458.00 (\$259.50-259.50)
Kruggerand: \$437.00-440.00 (\$248.50-250.50)
Maple Leaf: \$451.00-455.00 (\$256.50-259.50)
American Eagle: \$451.00-456.00 (\$256.50-259.50)
New Sovereigns: \$100.25-104.00 (\$58.25-59.00)
Old Sovereigns: \$102.25-104.75 (\$58.25-59.75)
Pictet: \$449.25 (\$253.50)
Palatinate: \$117.75 (\$66.00)
Silver: \$8.50-6.32 (\$2.585-3.800)

Automobiles should be more than
safe, comfortable machines.
They should also be able to communicate
with the world around them.



Hitachi's wide-ranging automotive technologies include car audio, the Satellite Drive Information System featured on Nissan's CUE-X concept car and a microcomputer engine control system.



Recent advances in car electronics technology have been remarkable. They've not only improved basic functions such as engine control, they're now being seen in man-machine interfaces providing more comfort and operating ease, and even in communications with the surrounding world. Down the road there are things even more exciting.

Hitachi's scientists and engineers are at work on a Multi Information System using a colour thin filter transistor LCD to display operating information, road maps and a navigational system using these maps. With this system a driver could obtain a variety of driving information simply by touching the display screen. Eventually, he'll be able to issue verbal commands to, for instance, regulate the temperature within his car. Hitachi electronics and semiconductor technology can also bring free communication with the outside and determine a car's exact location through use of Global Positioning System satellites.

Hitachi have also developed a highly acclaimed hot wire air flow sensor used in engine management. It helps achieve the diametrically opposed goals of maximum power and fuel economy. And we've created many other superior products for driving control, suspension control, air-conditioning and audio.

We link technology to human needs; and believe that our special knowledge will create new, highly sophisticated functions that are also easy to operate. Our goal in automotive electronics — and medicine, energy and consumer electronics as well — is to create and put into practice innovations that will improve the quality of life the world around.



HITACHI

Hitachi, Ltd. Tokyo, Japan

Portfolio
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Accumulator
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DAILY DIVIDEND £4,000
Claims required for 58 points

ACCUMULATOR £44,000
Claims over 58 points

Claimants should ring 0254-53272

Prices are Friday's middle prices. Change, dividend, yield and P/E ratios are calculated on middle prices. (aa) denotes Alpha Stocks.

[illegible]

62.5m	Leicester Strategy	31	-4		
62.5m	Enterprise (ns)	295	-10	12.3	4.2 25.0
100.1m	Goal Post	91	-4	1.0	1.5 34.3
51.8m	St Western Res	130	-1	3.0	2.3 ..
351.8m	Hamilton	2134	+3		
25.4m	Hunting P S	190	-3	12.3	8.5 18.8
14.1m	Jackson	154	-2		

TOBACCO					
6,435 Sm BAT (aa)	431	-8	21.0	4.9	102
33.1% Camell	138	•	•	•	•
1,189 3m Romans 'B' (aa)	401	-14	11.2	2.8	11.1

• Ex dividend a Ex all b Forecast dividend • Interior
 movement demand 6.80m at forecast

● Ex dividend a Ex all b Forecast dividend ● Interim payment passed f Price at suspension g Dividend and yield exclude a special payment h Pre-merger figures i Forecast earnings o Ex other r Ex rights s Ex Scrip or

01-481 1066

PREP & PUBLIC SCHOOLS

CANFORD SCHOOL
WIMBORNE,
DORSET
DIRECTOR
OF MUSIC

Applications are invited for the post of Director of Music at Canford School in September 1988.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Headmaster to whom applications should be sent by 15th February, 1988.

MORETON HALL,
SHROPSHIRE
GSA, GBGA, BSA

This thriving boarding and day school (310 boarders, 20 day) for girls with a sixth form (100+), a growing reputation and an increasing demand for places, invites applications from graduates with successful experience, enthusiasm and good qualifications:

1. The HEAD OF MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT, currently about 25% of girls in the sixth form are taking the subject at Advanced level.
2. To take charge of and assist national teams to compete in the CLASSICS DEPARTMENT and to be one of a team of BOYS' MANAGER/MENTORS who enjoy considerable status and appropriate accommodation.

Conditions of employment are unusually good as are the facilities which are being further improved. The school has its own salary scale which is substantially better than both public and private schools.

Applications, with full curriculum vitae and the names, addresses and telephone numbers of three referees, should be sent to the Headmaster, Moreton Hall, Weston Rhyn, Cheshire, Shropshire, SY11 3EW. Full details of the posts and the school will be sent to all applicants and enquiries.

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S
GRAMMAR SCHOOL
Blackburn, Lancs BB2 6DF
H.M.C.

1200 pupils, including 750 in co-educational Sixth Form. Required for September two graduates to teach:

FRENCH

at all levels in the school, and to join a thriving and energetic department with a first class of A-level and University entrance success. The post will suit an able and enthusiastic teacher seeking either a first or second appointment, and willing to be involved in the full range of school life, including established foreign exchange links.

ENGLISH

at all levels in the school, and to join a thriving and energetic department with a first class of A-level and University entrance success. The post will suit an able and enthusiastic teacher seeking either a first or second appointment, and willing to be involved in the full range of school life, including established foreign exchange links.

BRENTWOOD SCHOOL
Brentwood, Essex CM8 2JH
(Girls' Section Opens September 1988)
H.M.C. (Girls' Section Opens September 1988)
H.M.C. (Girls' Section Opens September 1988)

History, Classics, French, Latin, English, Mathematics, Science, Music, Art, Design, Physical Education, and a full range of extra-curricular activities. Further details and application forms for the following positions will be sent to all applicants:

COLLINGWOOD BOYS' SCHOOL
Springfield Road,
Wallingford, Oxfordshire OX10 9BB
01 647 4807
(Independent Day School of 180 boys
aged 4-11+)
REQUIRED FOR SEPTEMBER 1988

**MATHEMATICS
AND
SCIENCE TEACHER**

For full details please apply to the Head Master at the above address.

FARRINGTONS
SCHOOL
Chislehurst, Kent BR7 6LR

A resident Deputy Head required for 1st September 1988 for a day secondary school with a four-bed dormitory. A four-bed dormitory detached house together with all domestic services is provided for the Headmaster. Applications should be sent to the Headmaster, Farringtons School, Chislehurst, Kent BR7 6LR. Further details and application forms will be sent to all applicants.

NORWICH SCHOOL
H.M.C. - 600 Boys

A newly-qualified or experienced GRADUATE in ECONOMICS is required for September in the day school. The ability to offer similar subject, preferably further History, would be an advantage.

There is every opportunity to be involved in a wide range of extra-curricular activities. Applications should be sent to the Headmaster, Norwich School, Norwich, Norfolk NR1 4QJ with Curriculum Vitae and the names, addresses and telephone numbers of three referees. Further details and application forms will be sent to all applicants.

TEACHER OF MATHEMATICS
NORTHEASE MANOR SCHOOL
Norteham, Leicestershire LE15 8JH
0533 622222

Required for September for small groups of able children with specific learning difficulties.

A fully qualified and experienced teacher, either experienced or a new entrant to the profession, able to work in a team to develop, as in the case of the school, a curriculum of excellence. Further details and application forms will be sent to all applicants.

STREATHAM HILL AND
CLAPHAM HIGH SCHOOL
Great Pyrie, Surrey TW20 3BN
081 899 3333

A fully qualified and experienced teacher, either experienced or a new entrant to the profession, able to work in a team to develop, as in the case of the school, a curriculum of excellence. Further details and application forms will be sent to all applicants.

STANNE'S SCHOOL
ART AND DESIGN
St Anne's, London SE18 6JH
081 491 1111

A fully qualified and experienced teacher, either experienced or a new entrant to the profession, able to work in a team to develop, as in the case of the school, a curriculum of excellence. Further details and application forms will be sent to all applicants.

SOUTH HAMPSHIRE
HIGH SCHOOL
Southampton, Hampshire SO9 4JH
0703 222222

A fully qualified and experienced teacher, either experienced or a new entrant to the profession, able to work in a team to develop, as in the case of the school, a curriculum of excellence. Further details and application forms will be sent to all applicants.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

INSTITUTE OF NEUROLOGY
(University of London)
SECRETARY TO THE INSTITUTE

Applications are invited for the post of Secretary to the Institute of Neurology, Queen Square, London WC1. The Institute is a Member of the British Postgraduate Medical Federation of the University of London and with its sister Institute, The National Hospital for Nervous Diseases, provides the leading centre for postgraduate training and research into neurology and allied clinical and basic neuro-sciences in the United Kingdom.

The Secretary works in close association with the Dean of the Institute and is supported by a Finance Officer, Registrar, and other secretarial and administrative staff. The Secretary is responsible for the day to day administration of the Institute in all matters relating to personnel, finance, safety, the management of buildings and plant and the servicing of the main committees. Applicants should have substantial experience of finance and administration, preferably in the field of higher education, and a high level of general organisational and management skills are essential. Salary within the range of £21,000 to £24,000. Applications should be addressed to: The Dean, Institute of Neurology, The National Hospital, Queen Square, London WC1N 3BG, to arrive no later than 4 March 1988, from whom further particulars are available.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
Librarian of the Faculty
of Architecture and
History of Art

The Faculty of Architecture and History of Art wishes to appoint to the office of Librarian a scholar with an enthusiasm for running and developing with the help of the assistant staff its important library of over 22,000 volumes and 350 periodicals. The Librarian will also be expected to play a full part in the life of the Faculty and to undertake some graduate and undergraduate teaching within it.

Applicants should have a wide knowledge of past and current bibliography of both Architecture and History of Art and it would be advantageous to possess one or more of a good Honours degree, experience in an academic library, professional qualifications in librarianship.

The appointment will be for three years, with the possibility of re-appointment to the retiring age. The pensionable scale of salaries for the Librarian, not ordinarily resident in College, is £11,480 a year, rising by six annual increments to £14,265. Stipends are expected to be increased by 7 per cent. From 1 March 1988.

Further information may be obtained from Mr. A. Souter, Secretary of the Appointments Committee for Faculty and Departmental Librarians, General Board Office, The Old Schools, Cambridge, CB2 1TT, to whom applications (including copies of curriculum vitae and the names of two referees, should be sent, so as to reach him not later than 26 February 1988.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
ASSISTANT
LECTURER
IN THE
FACULTY OF LAW

Assistant Lecturer to take up appointment on 1 October 1988 or such earlier date as may be agreed.

Further information may be obtained from the Secretary of the Appointments Committee for Faculty and Departmental Librarians, General Board Office, The Old Schools, Cambridge, CB2 1TT, to whom applications (including copies of curriculum vitae and the names of two referees, should be sent, so as to reach him not later than 27 February 1988.

THE UNIVERSITY OF HULL
Chair in
Economic History

Applications are invited for a new Chair in Economic History from 1 October 1988.

The appointment will be held in the Department of Economic and Social History, a constituent element of the School of Economic and European Studies. The Department has a large under-graduate entry and strong teaching links with other subjects, particularly Economics. The preferred candidate should be broadly in the economic history of twentieth century Europe. Applications will also be welcomed from scholars presently working in a cognate social science, where the principal focus of research interest is on aspects of economic-historical development of Europe in this century.

Salary will be within the professional range. Applications (12 copies) giving details of age, qualifications and experience, should be sent by 25 February 1988 to the Registrar and Secretary (Personnel Office), University of Hull, Hull HU6 7TL, from whom further particulars may be obtained. Tel: 0482 466263.

UNIVERSITY OF READING
Department of
French Studies

Applications are invited for a post of Lecturer. Candidates' main interest should be in language teaching and its methodology and the non-literary uses of French, including Management. An ability to teach modern French Literature and/or history, politics and institutions an advantage. The appointment is from 1 October 1988 and will be for a probationary period of 3 years. Salary scale £9,260 - £14,500 p.a. (Grade A) or £15,105 - £19,310 p.a. (Grade B) plus USS/USDPs benefits. Further particulars and application forms (12 copies) are available from the Personnel Office, University of Reading, Whiteknights, PO Box 217, Reading RG6 2AH, telephone (0734) 875123 ext. 220. Please quote Ref. AC. 885. Closing date 11 March 1988.

UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL
CAREERS &
APPOINTMENTS OFFICER

Applications are invited for the above post, vacating from 1st April 1988. The vacancy is for a Careers & Appointments Officer who will provide career guidance, including assistance in obtaining employment or further study, to all students of the University.

The person appointed will be a graduate (preferably aged 27-35 years) with a record of successful experience in industry, commerce or education. The successful candidate will be expected to be responsible for students drawn from the Faculties of Arts, Social & Environmental Studies.

Initial salary will be on the Grade 6 scale for Senior Administrative Staff £12,180 - £15,110 per annum.

Applications, together with the names of three referees, should be received not later than 28 February 1988, by The Registrar, The University, P.O. Box 147, Liverpool, L69 3GB, from whom further particulars may be obtained. Closing date 28 February 1988.

UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL
CAREERS &
APPOINTMENTS OFFICER

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Initial salary will be on the Grade 6 scale for Senior Administrative Staff £12,180 - £15,110 per annum.

Applications, together with the names of three referees, should be received not later than 28 February 1988, by The Registrar, The University, P.O. Box 147, Liverpool, L69 3GB, from whom further particulars may be obtained. Closing date 28 February 1988.

An Equal Opportunity Employer

University of Strathclyde

DEPARTMENT OF DESIGN,
MANUFACTURE AND
ENGINEERING MANAGEMENT
FIXED-TERM LECTURESHIP

Applications are invited from candidates with Honours degrees in Engineering, Science or an associated discipline for a Fixed-Term Lectureship in Advanced Manufacture Technology (available for 3 years). Candidates should have industrial experience in the fields of manufacturing in the electronics industry; or flexible assembly systems; or computer integrated manufacturing; and should be interested in pursuing research in these areas.

Salary: Lecturer Scale: £9,260 - £19,310 per annum. Application forms and further particulars (Quote Ref. 11/88) are available from Staff Office, University of Strathclyde, 16 Richmond Street, Glasgow G1 1XQ. Closing date for Applications: 19 February 1988.

University of Strathclyde

DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

The University invites applications from suitably qualified candidates for the newly-created post of Development Director to lead and launch a campaign to attract further funds for development. The successful candidate will be expected to research, identify and compile a constituency to approach for each fund-raising project and to coordinate the University's fund-raising efforts. Appointment will be for three years in the first instance.

Salary: Negotiable - in keeping with seniority of appointment. Application forms and further particulars (Quote Ref. 10/88) are available from Staff Office, University of Strathclyde, 16 Richmond Street, Glasgow G1 1XQ. Closing date for Applications: 1 March 1988.

University of London

CHAIR OF MATHEMATICS AT THE
LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND
POLITICAL SCIENCE

The Senate invite applications for the above Chair.

Applications would be particularly welcomed from candidates with interests in the non-linear mechanics (such as the interface between fluid and solid media) and in the theory of dynamical systems and in the theory of dynamical systems and in the theory of dynamical systems.

Applicants (12 copies) should be sent to the Registrar, University of London, Senate House, Malet Street, London WC2E 7HU, from whom further particulars may be obtained. The closing date for applications is 4 March 1988.

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD
THE QUEEN'S COLLEGEOFFICIAL FELLOWSHIP AND PROFESSORSHIP
IN
PHYSICS IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE
DEPARTMENT OF NUCLEAR PHYSICS

Applications are invited for an Official Fellowship and Professorship in Physics with effect from 1 October 1988 or a later date to be agreed. The appointment will be made by the Council in conjunction with the Board of Faculty of Physics. The holder of the Official Fellowship will be expected to carry out normal duties of a University Lecturer in the Department of Nuclear Physics, and to be associated with the Department of Nuclear Physics and the Department of Nuclear Physics.

In addition to the teaching and other duties of the Official Fellowship, the successful candidate will be expected to carry out normal duties of a University Lecturer in the Department of Nuclear Physics, and to be associated with the Department of Nuclear Physics and the Department of Nuclear Physics.

The research programme of the Nuclear Physics Department includes provision for experiments with the DESY particle accelerator at DESY and the DESY particle accelerator at DESY. The successful candidate will be expected to carry out normal duties of a University Lecturer in the Department of Nuclear Physics, and to be associated with the Department of Nuclear Physics and the Department of Nuclear Physics.

Further particulars of the appointment and of the departmental research programme may be obtained from the Registrar, University of Oxford, 1 Wellington Square, Oxford, OX1 2JF, from whom 9 copies of applications (one only from overseas candidates) should be sent not later than March 10, 1988. These should include a curriculum vitae, list of publications, and a statement of research interests and teaching experience. Candidates are asked to arrange for three referees to be sent direct to the College Secretary by the above date.

UNIVERSITY OF HULL
Chair of Zoology

Applications are invited for the Chair of Zoology, vacant from July 1, 1988 following the retirement of Professor B. Lof. The successful candidate will be expected to carry out normal duties of a University Lecturer in the Department of Zoology, and to be associated with the Department of Zoology and the Department of Zoology.

Applicants should have strong academic qualifications and a substantial record of research and publications. The appointment will be made by the Council in conjunction with the Board of Faculty of Science. The holder of the Chair will be expected to carry out normal duties of a University Lecturer in the Department of Zoology, and to be associated with the Department of Zoology and the Department of Zoology.

Further particulars of the appointment and of the departmental research programme may be obtained from the Registrar, University of Hull, Hull HU6 7TL, from whom 9 copies of applications (one only from overseas candidates) should be sent not later than March 10, 1988. These should include a curriculum vitae, list of publications, and a statement of research interests and teaching experience. Candidates are asked to arrange for three referees to be sent direct to the College Secretary by the above date.

UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

Chair of Zoology

Applications are invited for the Chair of Zoology, vacant from July 1, 1988 following the retirement of Professor B. Lof. The successful candidate will be expected to carry out normal duties of a University Lecturer in the Department of Zoology, and to be associated with the Department of Zoology and the Department of Zoology.

Applicants should have strong academic qualifications and a substantial record of research and publications. The appointment will be made by the Council in conjunction with the Board of Faculty of Science. The holder of the Chair will be expected to carry out normal duties of a University Lecturer in the Department of Zoology, and to be associated with the Department of Zoology and the Department of Zoology.

Further particulars of the appointment and of the departmental research programme may be obtained from the Registrar, University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, from whom 9 copies of applications (one only from overseas candidates) should be sent not later than March 10, 1988. These should include a curriculum vitae, list of publications, and a statement of research interests and teaching experience. Candidates are asked to arrange for three referees to be sent direct to the College Secretary by the above date.

THE UNIVERSITY OF HULL
THE LAW SCHOOL
LECTURESHIPS

Applications are invited for TWO PERMANENT LECTURESHIPS and TWO TEMPORARY LECTURESHIPS (initially for a period of two years) available from 1 October 1988. The primary teaching duties of the appointees will be to teach the following subjects: CONSUMER LAW, PUBLIC LAW, and PROPERTY LAW to LL.B. students and applicants must be able to offer one of these subjects.

Applicants should have a law degree (LL.B. or equivalent) and should be qualified to teach law. In addition, offer one or more of the following: REVENUE LAW, INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW, WELFARE LAW or the LAW OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE.

Initial salary will be on the Lecturer scale: £9,260-£14,500 p.a. or £15,105-£19,310 p.a. according to qualifications and experience. It is expected that for the temporary posts salary will not exceed £11,000 p.a.

Candidates who wish to be considered for the permanent posts only should indicate this clearly on their applications. Applications (9 copies) giving details of age, qualifications and experience, should be sent by 5 March 1988 to the Registrar, University of Hull, 158-170X from whom further particulars may be obtained. (Tel: 0482 466277).

MAGDALENE COLLEGE
CAMBRIDGE
CHAPLAIN

It is intended to appoint a Chaplain from 1 October 1988.

Particulars may be obtained from the Registrar, Magdalene College, Cambridge, CB3 0AQ. (0223 32244).

SELWYN COLLEGE
CAMBRIDGE

Offer a term's residence to a Schoolteacher for the Lent Term 1988. Application forms and particulars are available from the Master. Applications must be made by 11 March 1988.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
OF SWANSEALecturer in Special
Educational Needs

Applications are invited for the vacancy of Fixed Term Lecturer in Special Education in the Department of Education. Applicants should possess a good honours degree, a higher degree and they should also be trained teachers with recent experience in working with pupils with special educational needs.

The appointment, which will be for five years from September 1, 1988, will be on the Grade B scale £15,105 - £19,310 per annum, together with USS/USDPs benefits.

Further particulars and application forms (2 copies) may be obtained from the Personnel Office, University College of Swansea, Singleton Park, Swansea, SA2 8PP, to which office they should be returned by Friday, March 4, 1988.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

The Vice-Chancellor

The University has established a Committee to consider the appointment of a Vice-Chancellor in succession to Lord Flowers, who will be retiring on 31 August 1989.

The Vice-Chancellor, the academic and administrative head of the University, is normally appointed for a period of four years and is eligible for reappointment for one further period not exceeding four years.

The Committee invites persons wishing to suggest any names for consideration, or interested in being considered for the post, to write in confidence by 29 February 1988 to the Secretary of the Committee, Mr Peter Taylor, Clerk of the Senate, Senate House, Malet Street, London WC2E 7HU.

SCHOOL OF ORIENTAL AND
AFRICAN STUDIES
University of London
LECTURESHIP IN SANSKRIT

Applications are invited for a Lectureship in Sanskrit, in the Department of Indian and Tibetan Studies, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. The successful candidate will be expected to teach Sanskrit and to be associated with the Department of Indian and Tibetan Studies.

The appointment will be for three years in the first instance. Salary: Negotiable - in keeping with seniority of appointment. Application forms and further particulars (Quote Ref. 10/88) are available from Staff Office, University of London, Senate House, Malet Street, London WC2E 7HU, from whom further particulars may be obtained. The closing date for applications is 4 March 1988.

THE UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL
Academic Secretary

Following the appointment of the present Academic Secretary to the post of Registrar and Secretary at the University of Liverpool, the University of Liverpool is now looking for a replacement.

Candidates should have appropriate experience of administration and government in a University. The salary will be within Grade VI for Academic-Related Staff (minimum of £13,300 per annum from 1 March 1988) and will be determined according to the qualifications and experience of the successful candidate.

Applications (12 copies) should be sent to the Registrar and Secretary (Academic), University of Liverpool, P.O. Box 147, Liverpool, L69 3GB, from whom further particulars may be obtained. The closing date for applications is 4 March 1988.

CHRIST CHURCH
Oxford
COLLEGE CHAPLAINCY

The College proposes to appoint a Chaplain who must be an Anglican in priest orders to take office on 1 October 1988. Candidates should obtain further particulars and a form of application by writing to the Dean's Secretary, Christ Church, Oxford, OX1 1DP. The final date for applications is 11 March 1988.

POSTS

INCHBALD SCHOOL OF DESIGN
Has vacancy for the position of
DIRECTOR
of the Department of
Design History
£16,000 per annum
Please apply with C.V. to
The Principal, Inchbald School of Design
7 Eaton Square, London SW1W 9BAVACANCIES FOR TEACHERS
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS

Applications are invited from qualified and experienced teachers for posts of Teachers in the Commonwealth of the Bahamas for September 1988 in the following subject areas:

SECONDARY SCHOOLS (UP TO GCE 'O' LEVEL STANDARD)
English Language/Literature
Mathematics
Physical Education
Social Studies
Science
Sports
Technical Education
Music
Visual Arts
Workshop
Woodwork
Electronics
Metal Work
Textiles
Secretarial Studies
Agriculture

PRIMARY SCHOOLS
Teachers of general subjects
SPECIAL SCHOOLS
Chief Education
Teaching of the Mentally Retarded and Physically Disabled
TECHNICAL TEACHER
INDUSTRIAL TRAINING CENTRE
Electronics
Electrical Installation
Air Conditioning & Refrigeration
Carpentry
Joinery
Masonry
Painting & Decorating
Welding & Fabrication
Library & Audio Visual Resource Centre

Applicants for posts in Secondary Schools should possess a degree and/or teaching qualifications from approved institutions in the relevant area. Successful applicants will be required to teach appropriate subjects up to GCE 'O' level (Grade 12).

Applicants for posts in the Industrial Training Centre should be trained in an engineering or technical discipline, with at least three (3) years broad trade experience.

In addition, applicants should have experience as an instructor or technical teacher in a college of further education or a technical centre, and should be skilled at developing schemes of work from curricula and implementing fully integrated trades training programmes.

Salaries of the posts are in Scale \$10 (\$10,350 to \$18,350) per annum. Entry points on the Scale will be determined by qualifications and experience. The entry point on the Scale for diploma/degree holders in Education would range from \$10,350 per annum and the starting points for degree holders of GCE 'A' level would be \$11,000 per annum. The basic entry point for the B.A. degree and acceptable teacher training certificates/diplomas is \$11,000 per annum.

The salary is in Scale \$10. The basic entry point for City and Guilds final Technological Diploma or the equivalent, e.g. HNC and HND, plus teacher training is \$11,000 per annum.

A total of 100 years teaching experience or industrial experience (in the case of teachers posted to the Industrial Training Centre) will be considered for upward salary adjustment.

Application forms may be obtained by sending a stamped SA6 to:
Teacher Recruitment Division
The Bahamas Education Commission
11 Church Street
LONDON W1X 8AR

01-481 1066

EDUCATIONAL

01-481 1066

POSTS

Senior Lecturers

Royal Naval College, Greenwich

The College wishes to appoint three Senior Lecturers to the Department of Nuclear Science and Technology which provides academic training for naval officers and civilians involved in the naval nuclear programme.

Two of the posts involve lecturing in one or more of the following fields: atomic and nuclear physics, radiology protection and reactor physics. The third post involves lecturing in control, fluid mechanics and heat transfer.

You will be required to supervise laboratory and project work and to assist with course reviews and curriculum development. Encouragement is given to those wishing to undertake research for which the college is admirably equipped.

You must have a good honours degree (or equivalent) in an appropriate subject and at least 4 years' post-graduate experience in an academic, industrial or research establishment. If you do not possess these qualifications you may apply if you can produce evidence of high professional attainment. Teaching experience is desirable but not essential.

Salary £12,900 - £16,695 (inclusive of £875 Intermediate London Weighting). Starting salary according to qualifications and experience.

For further details and an application form (to be returned by 26 February 1988) write to Civil Service Commission, Alencon Link, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 1JB, or telephone Basingstoke (0256) 468551 (answering service operates outside office hours).

Please quote ref: S/7488.

The Civil Service is an equal opportunity employer

Ministry of Defence

MOD



Guildhall School
OF
Music & Drama

PRINCIPAL

The Corporation of London invites applications from suitably qualified candidates for the post of Principal of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama to succeed Dr. John Hosier, C.B.E., in January 1989. Application forms and full details of the appointment may be obtained from the Town Clerk, P.O. Box 270, Guildhall, London EC2P 2EJ (01-660 1407). Closing date 4th March, 1988.

LECTURER II/SENIOR LECTURER IN ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING

Four posts, at least one at Senior Lecturer level.

Applicants will be expected to make a significant contribution to a team of Electronic Engineers, servicing a range of BT&C courses. A2+2 BEng (Hons) in E&E is also in operation in conjunction with the University of Salford.

The principal subject areas are:

- Audio and Video Systems
- Studio Recording Technology
- Plant and Process Control
- Maintenance of New Technology

We would particularly like to recruit engineers with an affinity towards the audio and video recording industry. Applicants should possess a good Honours Degree in an appropriate engineering discipline, and relevant teaching and/or industrial experience.

Salary will be within the Lecturer II/Senior Lecturer scale: £10,070-£16,550 per annum (subject to negotiation).

Application forms and further particulars may be obtained from the Principal, Salford College of Technology, Frederick Road, Salford M6 6PU, Tel. 061-736 5541, to whom completed forms should be returned by February 22, 1988.



PART TIME STUDIO TUTORS Required

For Interior Design School, Belgravia Applications, with C.V. to: Studio Tutor, Inchbald School of Design, 7 Eaton Gate, London SW1W 9BA

EMMOTT FOUNDATION LTD

A major charity offering help for independent secondary education. The Trustees seek

AN EDUCATION OFFICER

responsible for investigating all applications for financial support and advising thereon. They hope to appoint a head or other Senior member of staff with independent school experience, recently retired or about to retire. Appointment from 1 Sept 1988, salary of about £10,000 p.a. plus expenses.

Further particulars from S M Parker Esq., 1 Wagonette Close, Harbury, Nr Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, CV35 9SD, to whom applications, full C.V. and names and addresses of two referees, should be sent by 15th March 1988.

KING'S COLLEGE MADRID

Day and Boarding School 950 Pupils

Head of Junior Department

Required for September 1988 experienced teacher to take responsibility for this department 280 pupils. Salary negotiable. Resident or Non Resident post. Application with full C.V., addresses and telephone numbers of two referees (including present employer) and photographs to: The Headmaster, King's College, Pto de Ubeda 22, 28016 Madrid. Interviews in London in March.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF DESIGN STUDIES

(Salary £14,000 per annum) required by Interior Design School, Belgravia. Lecturing, tutorial and administrative duties.

Applications with CV to: Inchbald School of Design, 7 Eaton Gate, London SW1W 9BA

THE BRITISH SCHOOL AT ROME DIRECTOR

Applications are invited for the post of Director of the British School at Rome which will become vacant in autumn 1988 following the appointment of the present incumbent, Dr G W W Barker, as head of the Department of Archaeology at the University of Leicester. Applicants should be established scholars with archaeological or other appropriate academic and administrative experience, knowledge of Rome and Italy and a good command of Italian. They could be at any suitable stage in their careers and may include those seeking permanent or fixed term employment, possibly up to retirement, or those wishing to arrange secondment from their present post. Further information and application form available from:

The Secretary
The British School at Rome
Tulke Building
Regent's Park
Inner Circle
Regent's Park
London NW1 4NS
01 487 7403

Closing date for applications 10 March 1988. Interviews will be held in London on Monday 28 March 1988.

HERTFORD COLLEGE OXFORD APPOINTMENT OF BURSAR

Applications are invited for the post of Bursar, who will be eligible for election as a Fellow of the College. The appointment will be from 1st October 1988 and the closing date for applications is 8th March.

Further details may be obtained from The Principal, Hertford College, Oxford OX1 3BW

WEST LONDON INSTITUTE OF HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND PARAMEDICAL STUDIES

Lecturer II in Human Biology. Graduate required to teach human anatomy and physiology to a range of paramedical and health courses. This is a 5-year fixed term appointment.

Salary scale: £10,000 - £13,000 plus £700 Over London Allowance.

(Pay rise pending)

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Law Report February 8 1988

Assessing damages for orphan's loss of mother

Spittle v Bunney

Before Lord Justice Dillon, Lord Justice Croom-Johnson and Lord Justice Woolf

[Judgment February 5]

In assessing fatal accidents Acts damages for the loss of a mother's services to a child, the change in the level of dependency as the child grew older and became less in need of looking after was to be taken into account.

The Court of Appeal so held in allowing an appeal by defendant against *Inter alia*, an award under the fatal accidents Acts of £47,000 in respect of a girl aged three at the time of her mother's death. An award of £25,000 was substituted.

Mr Richard Clegg, QC and Mr Harold Halford for the defendant; Mr Robin Stewart, QC and Mr Timothy Hartley for the plaintiffs.

LORD JUSTICE CROOM-JOHNSON said that a van driven by the defendant mounted a pavement in Barnsley, injured the child, Kate, and killed her mother who was aged 28. The father was not married and the father had assumed no responsibility towards the child. Her mother's sister took Kate into her family and had since been a loving substitute mother.

Where orphans were claimants under the fatal accidents Acts, what happened to them might vary and the valuation of their loss had to depend on the facts of the case.

First there had to be a loss which was capable of being evaluated in money terms. In *Hay v Hughes* ([1975] QB 790) the wages payable to a notional nanny were taken as the measure of the services which would have been provided by the dead mother.

As was emphasized in that case the whole assessment was a jury matter, the judge directing himself as to the position of the jury to decide the facts.

In cases where an orphan had been taken in by a close relative there had been a general, although not universal, reluctance to say either that the orphan had suffered no loss or had acquired a benefit. The logical reason for saying "no loss" was that no services could really replace the services of a mother. It was to be stated that the loss was one of actual services, not of love.

Having regard to the cost of hiring a nanny was not a

measure that was satisfactory in every case, but was one which was usually adopted, presumably because the legal profession or the litigants had so far been unable to think of anything better.

But in *Hay v Hughes*, Lord Justice Croom-Johnson made a suggestion that it would be worth looking at the costs of providing a foster home as an alternative measure on which to calculate the damages. Accordingly the defendant provided evidence of what the cost of providing a foster home for Kate would have been. The judge adopted the "nanny" formula.

Before their Lordships, the defendant submitted that the fatal accidents Acts damages were too large and repeated the argument that the cost of fostering was a better guide than the wages of a nanny.

Evidence was given of the sums payable to foster parents in Barnsley. They included weekly maintenance, pocket money and clothing. They were intended to cover the out-of-pocket expenses incurred by the foster parents, but they did not include any payments made to the foster parents as a financial reward for acting as such, or for the equivalent of maternal "service", expended by them on the children.

The trial judge did not find that that evidence gave any guidance which would help him to put a money value on the services provided by Kate's mother. He said the cost of fostering was not, therefore, comparable like with like. His Lordship agreed. There might be in existence other, relevant, figures relating to foster parents. None were put before the judge.

When one looked into the future at the prospective value of a mother's services to a child then still at the tender age of three and a half, one could not value them at a constant figure for the whole of the child's dependency.

Still less could one value them by taking services, such as those of a nanny, which for a time were closely analogous but ceased to be so as time passed by, and simply go through an arithmetical exercise in which the multiplier (the nanny's wages) was automatically increased year by year to keep step with actual or expected inflation.

There were cases where the dependency could be expected to vary, and where the remedy was an adjustment in the multiplier. In the absence

of firm figures met by using figures of money actually spent and going to be spent, the present was one such case.

What, then, should have been the direction given to a jury trying the facts of the present case?

They would be told that they should award such sum as they might think was proportioned to the injury to Kate resulting from her mother's death.

They should be told that the services which had been given and which would have been given to Kate by her mother had a monetary value and they could proceed on the basis that by the time she reached 22 (the age until which the judge found her dependency would continue) there would be no further deprivation by the loss of her mother's services.

They could take whatever number of years, short of eighteen and a half, which they thought represented the value at the time of death of the lost services to that age. They should be told that the fact that nobody was being paid or would be paid as a substitute mother made no difference, and that the sister's services, given free, were not to be set against any sum which they assessed.

As to how they should value the mother's services, they were not to use as a measure the evidence of the cost of fostering services. They should be told that they were to use what other evidence (the cost of a nanny) as they thought best, and that if they thought that did not properly reflect the true value of her services they should stand back and use their common sense.

What they ought also to be reminded of was that as children got older they might also get more independent of their parents and less in need of being looked after. In the early years the services rendered by a mother to her small child might be valued by the cost of a hired nanny. The requirements were to some degree compensatory.

As the child grew older valuation by commercial standards became less and less appropriate. Once the child had begun school, at least by the age of six, the extent of the services decreased in amount.

She needed, for a time, to be taken to and from school. Later on, she might go there by herself. Not only was the yardstick of a nanny's wage less appropriate, but the services rendered by the mother changed in nature.

The judge did not give himself any such direction. His Lordship did not believe that a jury directed on those lines would have finished up

with a total of £47,000, or that a jury would have assessed the services of a mother to a daughter between the ages of 10 and 13 to be valued at £3,000 a year, let alone when she would be receiving higher education.

It was probable that a jury which had taken those matters into consideration would have come to the conclusion that the total damages could not exceed £25,000 for the whole of the multiplier period. It was necessary, in order to calculate interest, to divide that sum. Where the action had come on so long after the death that most of the multiplier had already been used up, any such apportionment must be artificial.

His Lordship would apportion it as to £22,000 down to trial and £3,000 thereafter. In substituting those figures, he had taken into account the special qualification factor dealt with by Mr Justice Watkins in *Regan v Williamson* ([1976] 1 WLR 305) and approved, at least by implication, in *Abrams v Cook* (The Times November 26, 1987).

Lord Justice Dillon and Lord Justice Woolf agreed.

Solicitors: Mr W. I. Cortett, Manchester; Dbb & Clegg with Ashwin White & Co, Barnsley.

Commercial Court waiting list for short cases to be established

Practice Direction: Commercial Court Waiting List

A waiting list for cases with an estimated duration of not more than four days would be established in the Commercial Court, Mr Justice Hirst said in a practice direction issued by the Queen's Bench Division on February 5.

MR JUSTICE HIRST said that a result of Practice Statement (Commercial Court: Waiting List) ([1967] 1 WLR 1545) there was instituted in the Commercial Court a waiting list under the provisions prescribed in detail on page 1101 of *The Supreme Court Practice 1988*.

The scheme ran alongside the normal procedure, still in force, for all cases in the Commercial Court to be allocated, in effect, fixed dates, which was generally accepted to be essential.

Owing to acute congestion in the list of fixed cases during the 1970s, which resulted in waiting cases only very rarely being called into the list, the scheme fell into disuse, and this Practice

Direction superseded the previous ones.

In future the following provisions would apply:

1 A waiting list would be established for cases with an estimated duration of not more than four days.

2 It would be open to parties to apply by consent for their case to be placed in the list, either on the summons for directions or at the time of the application to fix a trial date.

3 In cases in which the summons for directions had already been heard, and/or where the trial date had already been fixed, consent applications could be made to the commercial court listing officer for the case to be placed in the waiting list.

4 The waiting list would be published in the commercial court listing officer's office.

5 All cases in the waiting list would also be granted a trial date in accordance with practice to date.

6 While there could be no guarantee that the placing in the waiting list would ensure a hearing at an earlier date, there

was a reasonable chance that it would do, since such cases would be given priority when any vacancies occurred.

7 Cases on the waiting list could be listed for hearing at short notice, although the effort would be to give as long notice as possible.

8 The smooth working of the scheme would be greatly enhanced if practitioners would give early warning to the commercial court listing officer of likely compromises, which would be treated in confidence, and prompt and immediate notification of actual settlements.

9 In view of the frequent and well justified complaints as to the long delay in obtaining trial dates in the Commercial Court, it was to be hoped that there would be a strong positive response to this opportunity to obtain expedient trials.

10 The working of the scheme would be reviewed after it had run for approximately a year, and any representations or comments would be carefully considered.

W and Another v Kennedy

Before Lord Emslie, Lord President, Lord Grieve, and Lord Sutherland

[Advised January 6]

While the basic rules of the law of evidence apply in hearings before the sheriff on a referral from a Children's Hearing, the purpose of the legislation setting up such hearings was to secure an objective inquiry into whether the welfare of the child required that he should be put into care. The rules of evidence should not be rigidly applied in such hearings where to do so would be to defeat the purpose of the legislation or prejudice the interests of the child.

The First Division of the Inner House of the Court of Session so observed in an appeal by the appellants against the decision of the sheriff at Glasgow holding as established a ground of referral under Part III of the Social Work (Scotland) Act, 1968.

Mr Anne Smith for the appellants; Mr Nigel Emslie, QC, for the respondents.

LORD SUTHERLAND, giving the leading opinion, said that a girl aged 15 had been referred to a Children's Hearing on the grounds that certain offences under the Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 1976 had been committed against her by her brother.

Those grounds had been challenged on the facts by the girl's parents and on the direction of the hearing, the reporter, Mr F. J. Kennedy, had applied to the sheriff a finding as to whether the grounds of referral were made out.

Both the reporter and the parents had been represented before the sheriff. Evidence had been given in support of the grounds of referral, and the sheriff had found that evidence credible.

But the only corroborator for that evidence had come from an admission allegedly made to the police by the girl's brother while under caution and charge.

When evidence of the terms of that admission had been led, the appellant's solicitor had unsuccessfully objected to it upon the basis that as that evidence had been led from police officers, it was inadmissible, the brother not being party to the hearing. When the brother came to give evidence, he admitted that he had made the admission but declined to say whether or not it was true.

The sheriff, having held the admission to be admissible in evidence, found that it sufficiently corroborated the girl's own evidence, and found the challenged grounds of referral to have been made out. The question now before the court was whether the sheriff had been entitled to hold the admission to

be admissible in evidence when its maker was not a party.

Although the matter had been argued before the sheriff on the basis that the admission was hearsay that was not correct. The alleged offender had given evidence before the sheriff and, on being shown his signed voluntary statement containing the admission, had accepted that he had made that statement. There was thus direct evidence from the maker of the admission as to its making.

In their Lordships' view, the admission was not hearsay at all for it had been adopted in evidence by its maker. Any objection to admissibility on the basis that the statement was hearsay was therefore misconceived.

But as the matter had been fully argued, and as it might prove to be of importance in future referrals, their Lordships would deal with the question before the court as though the admission had truly been hearsay.

The appellants argued that the basic rules of evidence applied to Children's Hearings. Hearsay was incompetent, subject to well-recognized exceptions, of which the only one relevant to the instant case was that applying where the maker of the statement was a party to the action.

The maker of the admission here in issue was not a party to the hearing. The sheriff had been wrong not to exclude the admission, for it did not properly fall within the exception.

The court did not agree with that approach. It was important to identify the nature of the proceedings before the sheriff. There was doubtless good reason for the strict rule regarding hearsay evidence in ordinary civil proceedings where parties had joined battle on the basis of detailed pleadings, but it did not follow that that rigidity was necessarily appropriate in other circumstances.

As had been said in *McGregor v D* (1977 SLT 182) proceedings under the 1968 Act were civil proceedings *sui generis*, and in such cases, although the basic rules of evidence must be observed in applications before the sheriff, the ordinary codes of civil and criminal procedure did not apply.

As had been pointed out by Lord Emslie in *In re K* ([1965] AC 291) and by Lord Wilgier, Lord Chief Justice, in *Humberstone County Council v R* ([1977] 1 WLR 1251) juvenile proceedings were not adversarial in nature, and the technical rules of evidence ought not to be operated in such cases so as to thwart the inquiry into whether the welfare of the child required that it receive care, which was the statutory purpose of the proceedings.

Although the observations of Lord Emslie and Lord Wilgier had been made in

relation to an English procedure

substantially different from that provided under the 1968 Act, they were nevertheless of assistance in supporting what was said in *McGregor v D*.

Proceedings before the sheriff on a referral were civil proceedings *sui generis* in which it must be borne in mind that the principal purpose was to ascertain what required to be done in the interests of the child.

It would be quite wrong for that objective to be thwarted by the application of rigid rules of evidence or procedure just because such rigidity might be appropriate in other kinds of proceedings.

It would be contrary to the purpose of the statute to exclude relevant evidence, such as the admission in the present case, simply because the offender was not a party to proceedings in which there were no "parties" in the normally accepted sense.

Their Lordships were confirmed in their view by a consideration of the terms of section 364 of the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1976. The admission in question would have been admissible to prove its maker's guilt in criminal proceedings against him.

Under section 364, where a person had been convicted of having committed, *inter alia*, a sexual offence against a child, the court might refer the offender to a Children's Hearing for the purpose of Part III of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968.

It would be strange if evidence competent to prove the offender's guilt, and automatically establish a ground of referral, could not be led in a hearing before a sheriff to determine whether or not an offence had been committed against the child.

Their Lordships accordingly considered that the sheriff had been correct in taking the view he had of the admissibility of the admission. But they emphasized that that was not to say that hearsay evidence should always be accepted in referrals.

The basic rules of evidence applied in such referrals and in general, hearsay should be excluded as inadmissible. But where it was clear that over-rigid applications of those rules would thwart the purpose of the legislation, and prejudice the interests of the child referred, an exception to the general rule might be permitted.

The marginal relaxation of the general rules allowed by the court in the present case was clearly in the interests of the child referred, and quadrated with both common sense and the terms of section 364 of the 1976 Act.

The court accordingly answered the question put to it in the affirmative.

Solicitors: Aitken Nairn, WS; Crown Agent.

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